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SOVIET OFFICIALS COMMENT ON PROPOSALS AT MBFR TALKS

Soviet Envoy Addresses Meeting

LD301212 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Vienna, January 30 TASS -- Ambassador Valerian Mikhailov who leads the Soviet delegation to the Vienna talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe spoke today at the opening of the 38th round of the talks. The ambassador stressed that the new round began under special circumstances. He called the attention of the delegates to the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on January 15, 1986 and extending a bold and realistic alternative to the current dangerous development of the international situation.

Touching on the situation at the talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe, the head of the Soviet delegation described as a positive phenomenon the fact that Western partners took into consideration in general the proposals made by socialist countries on February 14, 1985 on making initial reduction of Soviet and American troops in central Europe in combination with a subsequent non-increase for a definite period of time of the levels of the armed forces of the NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries in that region. It is actually the first time that the general framework of further discussions and certain contours of a possible accord have shown.

However, the proposals made by the NATO countries in reply, the Soviet representative said, still retain a lopsided and unrealistic character in many respects. Their chief shortcoming is that they replace efforts to bring about a real lowering of the level of military confrontation in Central Europe with arbitrarily bloated verification proposals.

A possible agreement in Vienna will, naturally enough, require alongside other things, the adoption of the necessary verification measures which would give both sides a reasonable amount of confidence that the commitments to reduce and not to build up the armed forces and armaments are indeed being honored and that there is no threat to either side. But these measures should come in line with sober realism as well as the substance and character of the agreement, and not cultivate a new source of suspicion and mistrust, Valerian Mikhailov said.

The ambassador expressed the hope that accord would be reached in Vienna both on the substance of the initial agreement and on measures of adequate verification of compliance with it.

Talks Center on Verification

AU301724 Paris AFP in English 1707 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Vienna, Jan 30 (AFP) -- Verification measures dominated the East-West talks on mutual and balanced reduction of forces in central Europe which resumed here today, the negotiators said after a nearly two-hour session. They said the talks hinged on a detailed document on verification measures put forward by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to delegates of the Warsaw Pact countries at the 38th round of MBFR negotiations since 1973.

Dutch Ambassador Jan Hein van de Mortel told the meeting that the 28-page document was complementary to the NATO proposal last December for a reduction of 5,000 U.S. troops and 11,500 Soviet ones in central Europe in the year following the signing of a Vienna accord.

Soviet delegation spokesman Nikolay Neiland said the NATO proposal, which was on the pattern of a Warsaw Pact proposal of February 1985, was "positive," but he termed "exaggerated" the verification measures demanded by the West. NATO proposed on December 5 a series of verification measures ranging from the establishment of permanent control posts to the provision of opportunity for each side to carry out 30 on-the-spot checks annually for the three years following the withdrawal.

Mr. Neiland said a Vienna agreement was possible, but verification measures should be "reasonable." Thirty on-the-spot inspections a year were unacceptable to the Warsaw Pact, he said.

Asked about prospects for a limited agreement before the next summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. Neiland replied: "One must be optimistic and I should like this to be achieved. But I am not firmly convinced of it. We also do not know when this Soviet-American summit will take place and if it will be this year." U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said recently that his government wanted the summit to take place by next July at the latest, but that Soviet officials had in private expressed preference for a meeting in the autumn.

The current MBFR session will end on March 20 for the Easter holiday.

MBFR Solution 'Taking Shape'

LD301917 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 30 Jan 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] Willy Brandt, chairman of the Socialist International and leader of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, has just written a major article on the problems of the second phase of the policy of detente in Europe. After making the point that relations between the great powers regarding the ensurance of peace are beginning to change, Brandt indicates that Europe can, and must, make use of this opportunity.

One of these great opportunities is provided by the talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe, which resumed in Vienna today. I would like to remind you that these talks, in which both the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO countries are taking part, are now in their 13th year. However, they have not as yet produced any concrete results. Over the years, I have often been in Vienna's Hofburg Palace where the talks are being held. Each time, I witnessed a lengthy and fruitless so-called discussion of numbers. The subject matter was provided by interminable calculations, based on various criteria, of the number of armed forces confronting each other. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries proposed at one of the latest rounds that this pointless pastime be brought, at last, to an end -- especially since a rough parity between the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact and NATO had long been absolutely evident.

Instead of this protracted discussion of numbers, it was suggested that work should begin on examining a concrete program for reducing armed forces and armaments in central Europe. A draft version of this was tabled by us nearly a year ago. It was proposed that, as a first step, the number of Soviet Armed Forces in central Europe should be reduced by 20,000 over a year and the U.S. forces by 13,000. The other participants in the talks -- the GDR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia on the one hand, and Britain, the FRG, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Canada on the other -- would undertake, for that time, to freeze their level of armed forces and armaments in that area. That, I repeat, would be the first step. Next, it would be possible to agree on further, even larger reductions in the armed forces and armaments of all the states in central Europe.

Right at the end of the last round of Vienna talks -- it was at the beginning of last December -- the representatives of the NATO countries eventually replied to our proposal. Now the outlines of a possible solution seem to be taking shape. As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev points out in his statement, the Soviet Union and our Warsaw Pact allies are determined to achieve success at the Vienna talks. If the other side is really seeking this too, then 1986 could be a landmark for the Vienna talks as well.

U.S. POLICY AIMS AT 'DECISIVE MILITARY SUPERIORITY'

LD301738 Moscow TASS in English 1711 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 30 TASS -- TASS commentator Leonid Ponomarev writes: The Pentagon is going to award 550 contracts to develop and build various components for space weaponry in keeping with the "star wars" program this year and another 150 such contracts next year, according to the American magazine AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY.

Hundreds of firms are already involved in what is called the "Strategic Defense Initiative" project. They include such giants from the U.S. military-industrial complex as Lockheed, Boeing, McDonnell Douglas, Rockwell, Hughes and Litton. The U.S. Administration's budget estimates for 1985 through 1990 provide for earmarking a total of 32.2 billion dollars for the SDI effort.

There is ample evidence, including statements by Washington officials, that the U.S. Government has already embarked on practical work to prepare for "star wars". Its coverup claims that the SDI effort at this stage is limited to nothing more than research cannot conceal the militarist, aggressive substance of this program, a large-scale plan to develop space strike weapons.

Importantly, these arms are to be created in addition to rather than instead of the enormous U.S. offensive nuclear potential, which is borne out by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's latest classified defense guidance directive for 1988-93. According to U.S. wire services, it was signed on December 31, 1985, and says that the Pentagon will be giving the "star wars" effort the same high priority as that enjoyed by its program for a strategic nuclear buildup.

It follows from all this that in Washington they continue to be guided not by a desire to limit and eliminate nuclear arms on earth, which is what the Soviet Union suggests doing, but by illusory hopes to gain decisive military superiority and acquire a position to deal a first nuclear strike with impunity through space militarization.

The Soviet Union has proposed making certain that mankind will enter the third millennium with plans not for "star wars" but for peaceful space exploration by the joint efforts of all nations. The development of space strike weapons, as the USSR has warned repeatedly, will kill hopes for nuclear arms reductions on earth. Outer space must be peaceful.

U.S. ATTITUDE TO ARMS PACKAGE EXAMINED

PM301919 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Jan 86 First Edition p 5

[Mikhail Ozerov article under the rubric "Journalist's Notes": "Reason Against Force: Into the 21st Century Without Weapons!"]

[Excerpt] It is common knowledge that for many years Washington was unwilling to learn what seemed an elementary truth: survival in our nuclear age is only possible on one condition -- that we are able to understand each other.

However, latter-day imitators of Herostrates have tried with might and main to militarize thought. What success books, movies, and television programs showing battles against Russians are enjoying across the ocean! The screens are full of "star wars." Children play computer battles (also against the Russians, of course!)

But perhaps reason has somehow begun to stir on the banks of the Potomac? This was people's hopeful thought during the Geneva meeting and they have still not lost that hope. At that time all attention was focused on the U.S. President's words about a "new start" in relations with the Soviet Union. How often R. Reagan assured us then that his administration is not seeking superiority over Russia and does not want war!

Fine words. But they are just words. Where are the deeds?

Unfortunately there are no deeds to be seen. We have been proposing very significant actions to strengthen security. What is more, we have been carrying them out unilaterally. The "other side," however, usually remains completely silent. Even worse than that: It tries to exploit our love of peace. For instance, we renounced nuclear explosions and have now extended our moratorium by another 3 months. In reply some people in the United States are cynically demanding: Let us conduct our nuclear tests more actively, now that an opportunity has appeared "to get ahead of Russia"!

The statement said clearly and definitely that this is Stone Age thinking. Then -- in the Stone Age -- the main concern was to arm oneself with a bigger club or a heavier rock. Now the concern is with weapons, primarily in space.

The U.S. President seemed to welcome the package of Soviet peace initiatives. However, neither he nor his entourage mentions the main obstacle on the path to disarmament -- the "star wars" program. The transoceanic leaders cannot abandon their sinister brain-child! However, we are proposing going into the third millennium not with programs for battles in the sky, but with large-scale plans for the peaceful exploration of space using the forces of all the peoples.

These are two diametrically opposed approaches. Even the Western press, including the press across the ocean, is forced to praise our stance. For example, THE NEW YORK TIMES, noting the "Soviet Union's new dynamism," writes that "Moscow's ideas signify a serious approach to the disarmament problem and the Russians have thereby issued a serious challenge to the main argument on which Reagan bases his 'Strategic Defense Initiative'-- the claim that a reliable space shield is the best way to abolish the threat of nuclear war."

Will U.S. statesmen cast off the shackles of the old way of thinking? Our planet's future depends to a large extent on this question. The U.S. Administration seems to be showing some elements of realism, but further progress is needed.

At the moment the U.S. side of the scales bears heavy "weights" which do not inspire optimism: pyramids of arms, sabotage, provocation, the refusal to consider the will of sovereign peoples, egoistical imperial schemes... In all, a reliance on strength.

But many centuries ago, Shota Rustaveli wrote:
People, do not take pride in strength.
Throw away your stupid toy!
For a small spark is enough
To burn down a great forest.

Some people across the ocean would do well to heed the great poet's wise call!

SOVIET, U.S. DISARMAMENT POLICIES CONTRASTED

LD301727 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 30 Jan 86

["Themes of the Day" program; commentary by TASS political observer Yuriy Kornilov -- "Into the 3d Millennium Without Nuclear Weapons"]

[Excerpts] The situation in the world must raise serious concern. Mankind today faces the necessity of getting over the negative tendencies which have accumulated in the course of the last few years, of removing the obstructions created by the aggressive circles of imperialism in the way of bridling the arms race, and of eliminating the impending nuclear threat over the planet. People are waiting for and justly demanding a fundamental improvement in the international situation.

Being aware of its responsibility to mankind, the Soviet Union has set forth new, far-reaching initiatives in the field of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, which are aimed at ensuring a resolute move toward detente and a normalization of the international situation.

International responses to the Soviet proposals fill millions of pages in newspapers and magazines and thousands of kilometers of teletype paper. Of course, these responses are not all the same; they depend on what circles, what forces are behind this or that mass media organ. But if the essence, the main point is singled out from the stream of responses, there is every reason for saying: The statement of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is assessed worldwide as an epoch-making document in the consistent fight of our country for maintaining and consolidating peace and for concluding the 20th century under the badge of peace and nuclear disarmament, which would correspond to the basic interests and hopes of all peoples on the planet. This is really the way it is.

The nucleus, the pivot of the large-scale complex of our proposals -- which have provoked and are continuing to provoke an extremely wide positive response on all continents -- is the program for the full elimination of nuclear arms over a 15-year period.

What is it that constitutes the fundamental novelty and significance of this program? It is, first and foremost, the fact that -- unlike the wishes expressed from time to time of official figures of Western states, which may be good, but are often aimed only at misleading public opinion -- this program is realistic and absolutely definite both as to its procedure and the time limits for its implementation. Working out specific accords on the initial scope and the time limits for the reduction and elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass attack should, in the opinion of the Soviet Union, become the main, the central point of the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. summit.

It should be noted in particular that the Soviet program has been drawn up with provisions for maintaining the present balance of forces in the world, but at a lower and lower level in every stage of its implementation. Thus, during the implementation of the program no threat to anybody's security will be created at any time.

How then has this initiative been met in official Washington? This question is all the more important, all the more logical because although the statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev goes far beyond the current stage of Soviet-U.S. contacts and talks, being addressed to all states and all governments, it is quite obvious that the practical implementation of the idea of a nuclear-free world depends, especially in the initial stages, on the attainment, first and foremost, of a mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States. It is these two countries, which possess the largest arsenals of nuclear weapons, which must provide the example of radically reducing them.

The concept expounded by the United States is well known according to which it is supposed to be possible to eliminate nuclear weapons by creating qualitatively new weapons and stationing them in space. It is obvious that to build a policy on such a calculation means to commit an irreparable mistake; after all, the history of the arms race has convincingly proved that no new weapon lessens the danger for mankind, but on the contrary, it reinforces it. Should weapons emerge in space, the arms race would not only not be stopped, it would develop with unprecedented strength and in the most dangerous directions. Let us repeat, this is obvious. Nevertheless, in certain U.S. quarters they not only continue to push this militaristic concept, but state for all to hear that the plans for "star wars" preparations will continue to be implemented. Following Pentagon chief Weinberger, this has just been reaffirmed in an interview for U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz as well.

We have already said that, guided by the desire to do everything possible for implementing the nuclear disarmament program, our country, displaying goodwill, has extended its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions for 3 months, urging the United States to follow this example. What then is Washington's response? Unfortunately, it is unambiguous. Relying on invented, false postulates about a need to overcome an imaginary lag behind the Soviet Union and on absolutely groundless references to difficulties in implementing checks of nuclear weapons tests, Washington refuses to reciprocate the Soviet initiative.

It is fitting to recall that last year the United States staged 16 underground nuclear tests, including seven after the Soviet Union had declared its unilateral moratorium. The development [obrabotka] and commissioning of more and more models of nuclear weapons, as is clear from Weinberger's statements in particular, will continue. Why? What is the aim? Why are nuclear experiments being carried out in the United States which, as is clear, nurture distrust and mutual suspicion? One can find an answer to these questions in the recent statement by Markey, for example, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. I am convinced that the main reason the White House refuses to join the nuclear test moratorium is the White House's desire to accelerate work on the main thrust of the "star wars" program, envisioning the creation of nuclear-pumped X-ray lasers, this U.S. legislator said. "Star wars", he stressed, is not only an obstacle to progress at the strategic weapons limitation talks, they are also an obstacle to talks on the complete and universal banning of nuclear tests. This is correct.

The facts show that the architects of U.S. foreign policy, although they are not sparing in statements of their own love of peace, certainly do not intend to slacken the pace in the implementation of the U.S. rearmament program, which is worked out for years ahead. This was acknowledged recently by the U.S. President as well: Speaking in the White House to representatives of a big business lobby, he observed that the draft federal budget for fiscal 1987, to be submitted to Congress in the next few days, will provide for a growth in military expenditure despite the fact that in the current fiscal year U.S. military allocations have been brought up to almost \$300 billion, a record sum in the country's history. Despite this, the administration intends to increase these sums in fiscal 1987 by a minimum of another 3 percent.

Apart from all else, the immense international importance of the Soviet initiatives is that they again demonstrate with immense, gigantic force and cogency, the profound love of peace in the country of the Soviets. They make it possible to throw an even clearer light on the question of who is what in today's world; who really comes out for the peace and security of people and who, while sounding off about peace, would like to take things in the opposite direction.

There is no need to say which forces and which quarters in the United States have an interest in the preservation and even growth of tension in the world and in material preparations for war continuing at an ever faster pace. Suffice it to recall that over the last 5 years, the total profits just of the ten biggest U.S. military-industrial corporations that are implementing the U.S. rearmament programs have increased by 150 percent and that preparations for "star wars" makes it possible for the arms kings, the big bosses of the military-industrial complex, to increase these profits in a geometric progression. I think it is important to speak clearly and precisely, again and again, of the following: Those who are refusing to adopt specific measures aimed at ensuring a peaceful life for the whole of mankind and are launching fresh military adventures and reinforcing the arms race, are throwing down a challenge to the UN decision to stage an international peace year and are taking a heavy responsibility upon themselves before mankind. It is not only in our country, but throughout the world that people expect not words, but deeds of the United States; they expect a constructive stand at the talks on nuclear and space weapons.

As far as the Soviet people are concerned, and this is once again reaffirmed quite forcefully by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement, they are devoted to peace as the highest value, equal to the gift of life. Our country is quite determined to continue to do everything in its power to prevent war, to eliminate the deficit of trust which exists, and to halt the nuclear slide and keep the sky over the globe clear.

GORBACHEV STATEMENT 'CLEARLY' DEFINES TASKS

PM171042 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Jan 86 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Toward a World Without Weapons"]

[Text] The United Nations has proclaimed the new year of 1986 peace year. What must be done to ensure it really does become a turning point in international relations and clears the way to ending the nuclear arms race on earth, preventing it in space, generally reducing the danger of war, and establishing trust among states? The answer to this question is given in the recently adopted CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Soviet Government decision on a number of major foreign policy actions of a principled nature. The essence of the Soviet peace initiatives is contained in the just published statement of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The concrete Soviet proposals clearly define the aims, methods, machinery, and time scale for achieving comprehensive disarmament. The task is posed, above all, of freeing the planet from nuclear weapons by the beginning of the 21st century. The Soviet Union has advanced a practical program for curtailing nuclear arsenals -- both vehicles and charges -- down to their total liquidation.

In the first stage, over the course of 5-8 years, the Soviet Union and the United States are to halve their nuclear arms capable of reaching each other's territory and each will retain no more than 6,000 charges on the remaining carriers. It is also proposed to liquidate the Soviet and U.S. medium-range ballistic and cruise missiles in the European zone. These means must not be transferred to other countries and Britain and France must pledge not to build up their own corresponding arms. At the same time the creation [sozdaniye], testing, and deployment of space strike arms must be resolutely banned.

Not later than 1990 it is necessary to begin the second stage, which will last for 5-7 years and during which other nuclear powers will begin to join the Soviet and U.S. disarmament measures in order to undertake a radical step through joint efforts -- to liquidate tactical nuclear weapons.

The Soviet-U.S. accord on banning space strike arms must evolve into a multilateral accord with the obligatory participation of the leading industrial countries. Then a reliable obstacle should be erected to the creation [sozdaniye] of combat systems which are based on new physical principles and which approximate means of mass destruction in terms of their strike abilities.

Finally, the third stage, calculated through 1999, draws the line -- the remaining nuclear weapons are liquidated once and for all and a universal accord is drawn up so that they are never revived again. In other words, the Damoclean sword of nuclear destruction, which has been threatening all mankind since 1945, will be removed.

What does the Soviet program's adoption give to the disarmament process? For some people in the West claim that accords in this sphere are quite unattainable. "The thing is that the two blocs, which by no means adhere to one and the same philosophy, cannot talk the same language," French Professor M. (Felden) writes. "They have quite different ways of thinking and values and do not adhere to the same criteria in their arguments; the result is almost total lack of understanding." There is no denying that our philosophy, our modes of thought, and many of our values are different. But our goals and criteria in the cause of achieving disarmament must be common goals and criteria. Strictly speaking, they are enshrined in a number of international documents, including Soviet-U.S. documents. Nuclear war must not be permitted -- there can be no victors. Accords can only be reached if the principle of equality and identical security is strictly observed. These are fundamental tenets! There is also the experience of conducting talks which have ended with the signing of very important agreements. Suffice it to cite the Soviet-U.S. ABM, SALT I, and SALT II treaties. That is to say that pessimism is being deliberately fueled by certain circles in the West; so as to prevent disarmament.

The latest Soviet proposals, which have provoked an unprecedented international response, open up huge possibilities. They envisage special procedures for destroying nuclear weapons and for dismantling, reequipping, or scrapping delivery vehicles. Our country is prepared to adopt any necessary measures of verification, including on-site inspections. If adopted, the Soviet program would lend the disarmament dialogue purposiveness and purposefulness and make it possible to break the dangerous tendency whereby the pace of the arms race outstrips the results of talks.

M.S. Gorbachev's statement draws special attention to the need to ban nuclear tests. As is known, as of 6 August last year the Soviet Union introduced a moratorium on nuclear explosions. Moscow repeatedly appealed to Washington to reciprocate. But no positive response was forthcoming. "By exploding ever new nuclear devices the U.S. side continues to pursue the unrealizable dream of military superiority," M.S. Gorbachev notes. "This is a fruitless and dangerous policy. A policy unworthy of the level of civilization which contemporary society has reached." Now, the Soviet Union has adopted another important decision. It has extended its moratorium by 3 months. The U.S. Administration has enough time to weigh our proposals and follow the Soviet Union's example. After all, halting nuclear tests means halting the endless refinement of nuclear weapons and leads to the actual freezing and ultimate liquidation of their stockpiles. That is why the Soviet Union once more calls on the United States to embark on the path of judicious and responsible decisions.

In order to ensure that the program to cut and reduce nuclear arsenals to naught is implemented consistently and effectively, the highest possible effectiveness of the machinery of disarmament -- bilateral and multilateral talks -- must be ensured. This applies primarily to the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons, the fourth round of which has started in Geneva. When they began their dialogue at the beginning of last year the sides determined its subject matter and aims: not to start an arms race in space, to halt it on earth, and to get down to the radical reduction of nuclear weapons, making their complete liquidation the ultimate task.

During the November meeting between M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan this line was reaffirmed in the joint statement which stressed the mutual desire to speed up the work at the talks.

The Soviet delegation which has arrived in Geneva has received instructions to conduct matters in strict accordance with this agreement. We expect just such a constructive approach from the United States also, primarily on the question of the nonmilitarization of space.

The package of Soviet initiatives embraces a wide range of disarmament and security problems. These include the question of banning and liquidating stocks of chemical ammunition. They include the tasks involved in reducing conventional weapons and armed forces in Central Europe, which are being discussed at the Vienna talks. They also include the confidence-building measures being discussed at the Stockholm conference. Ensuring security in Asia is also of vitally important significance for the Soviet Union as one of the major Asian powers.

Our new proposals are addressed to the whole world. The urgent need to implement them requires the efforts of all countries and peoples. Here the contribution of every person is important. "The course of peace and disarmament has been and will be the pivot of the foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state," M.S. Gorbachev stresses in the statement. "In actively pursuing this course, the Soviet Union is prepared to cooperate broadly with all who act from positions of reason, goodwill, and awareness of responsibility for ensuring mankind's future -- without wars or weapons."

The resolute actions to protect peace and improve the international atmosphere taken by the Soviet Union attest once again to the organic and indissoluble continuity of Soviet domestic and foreign policy. Our creative plans, with which we are approaching the 27th CPSU Congress, and the course of accelerating our peaceful construction are confirmed and developed in constructive initiatives in the international arena. There is where our great strength and confidence in the future lie!

ARMS INITIATIVE EXPRESSES SOVIET 'SPIRIT'

PM171156 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jan 86 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Program of Peace and Humanism"]

[Text] The entire world is now witnessing the Soviet Union yet again raising aloft the banner of peace, freedom, and humanism which Great October hoisted over the planet. This is how Soviet people, our friends abroad, all progressive mankind, and all the sober-minded people of the globe received the statement published yesterday in the press by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the passionate appeal in it to strive for a breakthrough for the better in the international arena. This document is of immense political importance. It discusses how to maintain peace and how to eliminate the threat of nuclear war.

It is this goal that is pursued by the decision made by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and the Soviet Government at the very beginning of the year on a number of major foreign policy actions of a principled nature. Their purport is to promote to the greatest possible extent the improvement of the international situation. They are dictated by the need to overcome the negative and confrontational trends that have arisen in recent years and to clear the way for ending the arms race on earth and preventing it in space, ensuring an overall reduction in the war danger, and building trust as an inalienable component of relations among states.

What is the Soviet Union offering? What measures is it putting forward for improving the situation on our planet?

First and foremost, a specific program intended for the total elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide within a precisely defined period of time. Acting progressively and consistently, its essence is to implement and complete within the next 15 years -- that is, before the end of this century -- the process of ridding the earth of nuclear weapons. The program is not only being announced. It contains a comprehensively conceived and well-founded procedure for reducing nuclear arms -- both delivery vehicles and charges -- right up to their complete elimination.

In the first phase it is envisaged that in 5-8 years the Soviet Union and the United States will halve the nuclear arms capable of reaching each other's territories and each side will not retain more than 6,000 charges on their remaining launch vehicles. Naturally, this reduction is only possible given a joint renunciation by both powers of the creation [sozdaniye], testing, and deployment of space strike arms. The decision to completely eliminate Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles -- both ballistic and cruise -- in the European zone as a first step toward ridding the European Continent of nuclear weapons is to be reached and implemented at this stage.

In the second phase, which should commence no later than 1990 and last 5-7 years, the other nuclear powers will start to join in nuclear disarmament. After the Soviet Union and the United States complete reducing their relevant arms by 50 percent, yet another radical step is to be taken: all the nuclear powers will scrap tactical nuclear weapons, that is, means with a range (operating radius) of up to 1,000 km. The third phase, during which the elimination of all remaining nuclear arms will be completed, will start no later than 1995.

Thus, by the end of 1999 there will be no nuclear weapons left on earth. By then a universal accord will have been worked out to ensure that these weapons never re-appear.

The proposals in M.S. Gorbachev's statement regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons on earth are of epoch-making importance. They envisage mankind entering the 3d millennium without nuclear weapons on the basis of mutually acceptable and strictly verifiable accords. Instead of spending the next 10-15 years on creating [sozdaniye] new weapons in space that are extremely dangerous for all the peoples and which, as Washington tries to allege, are intended to make nuclear arms unnecessary, it is more sensible to tackle the destruction of those arms and ultimately, reduce them to zero. It is this path that the Soviet Union is proposing. The problem of eliminating nuclear weapons is of importance for all mankind. It can and must be resolved only jointly. And the faster the new Soviet program is translated into the language of practical actions, the safer life on our planet will be.

Other radical measures according with the aspirations of all mankind are also envisaged. Striving to take a practical step in the context of nuclear disarmament, the Soviet Union has made an important decision: to extend its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions, which expired 31 December 1985, by 3 months. This moratorium, the Soviet Union states, will remain in force even longer if the United States for its part also ends nuclear tests. "Since last summer," M.S. Gorbachev points out, "we have been calling on the United States to follow our example and end nuclear explosions. Hitherto, Washington has not done this despite protests and demands from the public and against the will of most states. In exploding more and more nuclear devices the U.S. side is continuing to chase the impossible dream of military superiority. This is a fruitless and dangerous policy; a policy unworthy of the level of civilization that present-day society has reached."

Bold, new approaches, new political thinking, and recognition of its responsibility for the peoples' destiny determine the Soviet Union's other proposals also.

It believes it necessary to put the entire existing system of talks into motion and to ensure that disarmament mechanisms are as highly efficient as possible. It is also a question of the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva, where the achievement in practice of tangible results would mean filling the program for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 with weighty material content. It is also a question, in the Soviet opinion, of the entirely realistic task of totally eliminating in this century such barbaric mass destruction weapons as chemical weapons. And the Soviet Union advocates not only the rapid and total elimination of these weapons, but also of their industrial manufacturing base -- under strict monitoring, including international on-site verification.

The Soviet Union firmly stands for the agreed reductions in conventional arms and armed forces, of which an accord at the Vienna talks could mark the start. Possibilities have emerged for reaching mutually acceptable decisions at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe. It is of vitally great importance to ensure security in Asia and resolve the increasingly acute global problems that mankind is encountering.

Thus, the range of new foreign policy initiatives proposed by the Soviet Union is aimed at ensuring that mankind greets the year 2000 under a peaceful sky and space, saving it from fearing a nuclear, chemical, or any other threat of destruction and ensuring that it is firmly confident of the survival and continuation of the human race.

The Soviet people see the new, resolute actions by the CPSU and the Soviet Government in defense of peace and improving the entire international situation as an expression of the spirit of Soviet domestic and foreign policy, of their organic cohesion, and of the fundamental historic law emphasized by V.I. Lenin. Soviet working people express total approval for the new peace initiatives of the CPSU and the Soviet State and state their resolve to strengthen their beloved fatherland's might through their selfless labor. Their voices are joined by those of army and navy servicemen who vigilantly stand guard over our motherland's security and are preparing to greet the 27th Congress of the Leninist Communist Party with new successes in improving combat training and increasing vigilance and combat readiness.

GORBACHEV DISARMAMENT STATEMENT HAILED

PM271032 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jan 86 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "The Cause of Each and Every One"]

[Text] The attention of the Soviet people, their friends abroad, and the world public remains focused on the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on disarmament questions. The Soviet Union's new, major, and fundamental foreign policy initiatives were enthusiastically received by the planet's peace-loving circles at large and all progressive mankind.

The Soviet proposals accurately define the specific objectives, methods, machinery, and schedule for the attainment of comprehensive disarmament. An accurately timed program for the complete liquidation of nuclear weapons everywhere with the prohibition of space strike weapons, put forward for the first time in the nuclear age, is the core of this large-scale package. The recently published message from the USSR Supreme Soviet to the U.S. Congress stresses again that mankind must enter the 3d millennium free from the burden of the most destructive weapons which threaten the life of all people.

The new decisive actions undertaken by the Soviet Union in defense of peace and for the improvement of the international situation are an expression of the essence and spirit of our domestic and foreign policies, of their organic fusion, and of the fundamental historic law which Vladimir Ilich Lenin stressed and which our party firmly follows. The Land of the Soviets hoists even higher the banner of peace, freedom, and humanism, which the Great October unfurled over the planet.

There can be no outsiders or neutral people when the issue concerns the preservation of peace and mankind's deliverance from the threat of nuclear war, the statement says. This is the cause of each and every one. The contribution of each state, large or small, socialist or capitalist, is important here. The contribution of each responsible political party, of each public organization, of each person, is important here. No task is more imperative, more noble, or more humane than to fuse together all efforts for the attainment of this lofty goal. This task has to be performed by people of our generation, without shifting it onto the shoulders of our descendants. The Soviet people are profoundly aware of this responsibility and act of correspondingly. Our people ardently approve and actively support the party's international policy, which stems from the socialist society's humane nature. It is inseparably linked with the strategic tasks of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and improving socialism and expresses the Soviet people's single desire -- to engage in creative labor and to live in peace with all peoples.

Guided by the will of the people, the CPSU and the Soviet State are doing everything within their power to solve the problem of the liquidation of nuclear weapons, which is of importance for the whole of mankind. Within the context of the measures undertaken for this purpose, the Soviet Union made an important decision -- it extended its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests for 3 months. The Soviet people acclaim this step. At the same time, they approve the warning, contained in the statement, that the Soviet Union cannot display unilateral restraint as regards nuclear tests indefinitely. This warning is even more topical in view of the fact that the United States disregarding all appeals and despite public demands, has so far failed to join the Soviet moratorium and is continuing to detonate more and more new nuclear devices.

The situation prevailing in the world arena does not allow the Soviet people to lower their guard. Facts testify that, hiding behind peace-loving rhetoric, the U.S. side is continuing its pursuit of the unattainable dream of military superiority and has not given up the creation [sozdaniye] of space strike arms. Influential U.S. circles are conducting an offensive against the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva. Statements aimed against the "spirit of Geneva" are uttered from authoritative rostrums. And the point is that matters are not restricted to just statements. Actions are undertaken which are clearly calculated to fan hostility and mistrust and to revive the conditions of confrontation.

The Soviet Union rejects these types of actions and thinking. The Soviet State, on behalf of its people, has repeatedly warned that the United States will never be allowed to smash the military-strategic equilibrium. M.S. Gorbachev's statement says once more and most definitely that our material and intellectual potential ensures for the Soviet union the opportunity to create [sozdaniye] any weapon, if we are forced to do this.

The draft new edition of the CPSU Program points out that, for as long as there exists a danger that imperialism may unleash aggression, military conflicts, and various provocations, it is necessary to devote unflagging attention to the strengthening of the Soviet defense might and the consolidation of its security. The CPSU will apply all efforts to ensure that the Soviet Armed Forces are at a level precluding strategic superiority by the forces of imperialism, that the Soviet State's defense capability is comprehensively improved, and that the combat community of armies of the fraternal socialist countries is strengthened.

Wholly approving the party's Leninist foreign policy course, the Soviet people ensure its practical implementation by means of their selfless labor which is aimed at strengthening the motherland's economic and defense might. This has been and still remains the cause of each and every one in our country. The faster and more successfully the tasks of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development are resolved, the more conscientious and more efficient every single person's labor becomes and the higher organization and discipline become our socialist fatherland will be that much richer, its positions will be that much firmer, and its voice will be that much more authoritative in the international arena.

The deeds, aspirations, and concerns of the whole people are also shared by the servicemen of the Soviet Armed Forces, who bear a particular responsibility for the country's defense capability and for the protection of the gains of socialism. Turning to M.S. Corbachev's statement, fully approving it, and drawing the necessary conclusions from it, they perceive it as their duty to display lofty vigilance in everything and to always be prepared to block imperialism's intrigues against the Soviet Union and its allies and to crush any aggressor.

The entire political and economic atmosphere in our country is now conditioned by the approaching 27th CPSU Congress. The party is approaching it with a Leninist program for a further advancement toward communism and the struggle for peace and international security. The active support for this strategic course by the whole Soviet people -- support in both words and deeds -- is the source of our optimism and of our confidence in the correctness of the chosen path and in the fact that the plans will definitely be fulfilled.

WORLD AWAITS U.S. RESPONSE TO SOVIET INITIATIVES

LD311056 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Gerasichev from New York]

[Excerpt] The U.S. side has not yet replied to the complex of Soviet foreign policy initiatives directed at eliminating all nuclear weapons, preventing the militarization of space, and eliminating all other means of mass destruction. Our correspondent Vladimir Gerasichev reports from New York:

Americans today, just like all peoples in the world, are waiting for a response from the administration which in principle has welcomed them [USSR initiatives] and promised to study them carefully with its allies. This was the first reaction from the White House to the new Soviet peace initiatives, which, to judge by what is being said in the local press, have taken Washington unawares.

There then followed attempts -- now sadly a tradition on the U.S. side -- to diminish the significance of the Soviet program, for the elimination of nuclear weapons and to bypass the basic tenets of our proposals, that is, not to permit the creation [Sozdaniye], testing, and deployment of space strike weapons, and to stop testing nuclear weapons. Finally, statements came saying that President Reagan is still bound by his decision to support the "star wars" program.

This was followed by a silence which could better be described as a clamming up. This, however, was resolutely opposed by the U.S. public by numerous antiwar and trade union organizations who want to end the arms race and transform the atmosphere of the summit meeting in Geneva into tangible results in the area of disarmament and arms control.

PRAVDA REVIEW OF WEEK'S INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

PM301149 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 86 First Edition p 4

[Boris Katov "International Review"]

[Text] A Powerful Factor

The 10 days since CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev's 15 January statement is a short time. But it is time enough to draw a definite conclusion that the whole world regards the USSR's major peace initiatives as a phenomenon of historic significance. For the first time in the history of the nuclear age a detailed, concrete, realistic, and therefore feasible program has been put forward, with a precise timetable for the complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction.

The scale of the discussion of the Soviet initiatives, currently being conducted everywhere, is extraordinarily wide. There is probably no state in the world today whose public, whose official and broadest political circles have not shown keen interest in our plan. Of course, the range of assessment is quite wide, but the prevailing feeling is one of hope, satisfaction, approval, and support for the USSR's bold step.

The following will give the most concise picture of the most important and characteristic official international reaction.

Indian Prime Minister R. Gandhi: The CPSU Central Committee general secretary's statement is a great inspiration. We wholeheartedly congratulate him and hope that the other side's reply will be as positive. The program put forward by the Soviet Union is an alternative to nuclear arms in space. The document points the way to ridding the earth of nuclear weapons.

Swedish Prime Minister O. Palme: The Soviet Union has shown that it is seeing concrete results in disarmament and wants to rid Europe of nuclear weapons. We also welcome the USSR's decision to extend the moratorium on all nuclear explosions.

Argentine President R. Alfonsin: The USSR's new peace initiative is a positive step. It offers new opportunities for stepping up the struggle for peace worldwide. Socorro Diaz, chairman of Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party ideological commission: The USSR's positions on the problem of maintaining world peace give all the peoples hope that the struggle against a nuclear conflagration will succeed. Australian Foreign Minister W. Hayden: M.S. Gorbachev's plan, envisaging complete nuclear disarmament by the end of the century, is of immense interest to Australia and will be carefully studied. Australia welcomes the Soviet Union's extension of the moratorium on nuclear tests.

Equally indicative is the reaction of NATO states' official circles, especially as Washington, according to LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS, was quick to warn them against "public pronouncements on the USSR proposals."

Greek Prime Minister A. Papandreou said that "the USSR's bold and original proposals aimed at protecting life on our planet are a concrete plan for the elimination of all types of mass destruction weapons." The Italian Foreign Ministry expressed the view that the USSR's proposals contain interesting new elements concerning, in particular, the problem of verification and reduction of medium-range missiles. The Dutch Foreign Ministry published a statement which said: The government takes a positive view of the USSR's proposals on the elimination of nuclear weapons on our planet by the year 2000. Norwegian Foreign Minister Sverre Strøm spoke positively of the Soviet initiatives.

According to an official statement from Madrid, "Spain, which made a free and sovereign decision to renounce both production and deployment of nuclear weapons on its territory, shares the aims of the USSR proposals." The French Government, the French External Relations Ministry said, notes that the USSR action program is based on the premise that the current U.S. -USSR talks will proceed much more quickly than over the past 15 years. France has already repeatedly emphasized that it wants to see concrete results within the context of the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva. According to the British Foreign Office, the Soviet proposals "are extensive and contain new elements."

In past days FRG Foreign Minister H. -D. Genscher has made several public pronouncements on the USSR initiatives. According to him, the Soviet proposals contain constructive elements. The West would do well to analyze them in detail and give a constructive reply. "The spirit of Geneva," Genscher noted, "must not be a short-lived phenomenon. The signs of goodwill displayed in Geneva must not only be utilized but must be reinforced with confidence-building measures."

What about on the other side of the Atlantic? To what extent are they taking into account the realities of the modern world, in particular, the not insignificant fact that on this occasion even "Washington's partners in the NATO alliance," according to the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL, "are insisting that the Americans meet Moscow halfway"? Obviously the U.S. leaders are in no hurry to take that step. Clearly, the inertia of habitual attitudes is still great. After the first promising reaction from President Reagan, the White House incumbent plunged into eloquent silence on the issue.

However, his assistants and associates were not idle. There was a plethora of reservations, excuses, and "clarifications." It looks like the U.S. Administration is not yet prepared to act from realistic positions which would really permit an acceleration of the process of reaching accords in the disarmament sphere. The administration's reluctance to abandon the space militarization program and stop testing nuclear weapons remains the chief obstacle on this path. It is symptomatic that in the course of the session of the U.S. Congress which opened this week, which is to approve the state budget, the White House firmly intends, according to the U.S. press, to secure full appropriations for the "star wars" program by reducing, in a situation where there is an immense budget deficit, expenditure on other items, mainly civil needs.

After a period of confusion and perplexity all the "hawks," servants of the military industrial complex, operating both inside and outside the Washington administration, have regained their composure and have become very active. The other day Assistant Secretary of Defense R. Perle followed the example of his boss, C. Weinberger, and made a brazen attempt to justify the "star wars" program. He made an appeal in the press for the accelerated militarization of space, stating that this "will make peace more stable" and make it possible to "reduce nuclear arms levels." P. Buchanan, one of the President's assistants, has been publicly advocating continuation of the course toward confrontation with USSR.

The Canadian newspaper (SOUTHERN NEWS) was looking into its crystal ball when it wrote: "The Soviet proposals are bound to be branded impracticable by the 'hawks' in Reagan's administration who will not trust the Russians under any circumstances. But in the rest of the world the USSR's steps will obviously be received in quite a different way.

As we have seen, this is the case. Not only in the rest of the world, but in the United States too. The USSR's initiatives have met with understanding among broad political, business, and public circles who are worried by visions of a nuclear apocalypse.

For example, D. Rockefeller, a major spokesman for the banking world, said last Wednesday: "The USSR's proposal on the destruction of nuclear weapons on earth by the end of the century merits the closest attention and serious treatment." It would be possible to cite a whole series of statements by senators and representatives, urging careful study of the Soviet proposals in view of the fact that it is vital for both sides to have Soviet-U.S. accords on problems of limiting the arms race as soon as possible. Of course it will be very hard for the White House to disregard this. As the U.S. TIME magazine said in its 27 January issue, "At present Washington is feverishly seeking an effective method of responding to the 'Soviet grand plan.'"

One thing is clear: the time for verbal assurances of love of peace has past. Specific action is needed, along with a clear and constructive response to the Soviet proposals, as urged by the world public. The Soviet program for general nuclear disarmament is a powerful factor of world politics.

Peace and Security for Asia

All peoples, including the peoples of the states in the Asian-Pacific region, which is the object of imperialist forces' increasingly persistent hegemonist aspirations, have a vital stake in the implementation of the all-embracing Soviet peace program. The number of U.S. military bases there is multiplying, attempts are being made to knock together new militarist blocs, and the maximum effort is going into fueling tension. The Washington "crusaders" are contemplating opening up in East and Southeast Asia a kind of "second front" of struggle against the socialist world.

Many of the events of recent days and weeks fall within the context of this imperialist policy. These include the signing of an agreement between the United States and the small Pacific island state of Belau which enables Washington to deploy new military bases on the islands, last week's visit to Pakistan by Centcom Commander General Crist, the purpose of which was to further galvanize the undeclared war against Afghanistan and strengthen the Washington-Islamabad militarist axis.

This category of events also includes the decision announced in Seoul to start on 10 February U.S. and South Korean Armed Forces' "Team Spirit-86" maneuvers, involving about 200,000 servicemen and a large number of ships, aircraft, and other combat equipment, as well as the decision by the United States and Thailand on the "Cobra Gold-86" joint military maneuvers near the Thai-Cambodian border.

The militarist forces' dangerous plans and their aggressive preparations in the region are countered by the peace-loving policy of the USSR and the other socialist community countries and the Asian peoples' increasing dedication to the idea of turning Asia into a zone of peace and security, a zone of equal and mutually advantageous cooperation. "The safeguarding of security in Asia is of vital importance to the Soviet Union, as a major Asian power," M.S. Gorbachev's statement said.

Soviet diplomacy is working vigorously to perform this task. This is eloquently demonstrated by the outcome of last week's official visit to Japan by E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and the results of his subsequent official friendly visits to the DPRK and MRP.

The talks in Tokyo were detailed and multifaceted. There was a discussion of questions pertaining to Soviet-Japanese relations and international problems of mutual interest. A prominent place was occupied by the discussion of the new Soviet foreign policy initiatives in which Japan was very interested.

In addition, as the joint Soviet-Japanese communique said, there was discussion of the great importance of political dialogue between the Soviet and Japanese leaders, the holding of regular bilateral consultations on questions relating to the conclusion of a Soviet-Japanese peace treaty, the further expansion of trade and economic relations, and cultural exchange, scientific and technical cooperation, and a number of other questions.

The talks participants spoke highly of the joint Soviet-U.S. statement on the results of the Geneva summit and noted that they see it as the start of a dialogue aimed at effecting changes for the better in the international situation. The talks demonstrated that the USSR and Japan, even given their present differences, could, by acting in the same direction, make a very useful contribution to peace and to the strengthening of international security. They constituted a "new start in Soviet-Japanese relations," the paper ASAHI noted.

The Soviet-Korean talks in Pyongyang and the Soviet-Mongolian talks in Ulaanbaatar can be seen as further convincing evidence of the socialist countries' peace-loving aspirations and their cohesion, close cooperation, and indestructible fraternal friendship.

Soviet-Indian relations and the friendship and cooperation between our two countries are a significant example of the fruitful potential of the policy of peaceful coexistence. Today India is celebrating its national holiday, Republic Day, a republic that enjoys great prestige and commands great respect the world over.

For the past 2 weeks, since 13 January, tragic events have been taking place in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen -- a small state in the Arabian peninsula. According to foreign agencies' reports, the situation there is gradually returning to normal. The authorities are taking steps to regulate municipal services, transport, and communications in the country's capital, Aden.

The 24 January extraordinary plenum of the Yemen Socialist Party Central Committee spoke highly of the socialist community countries. The Soviet Union's, and the CPSU's position of support for the country and their solidarity. It was stated that the strengthening and development of relations with the USSR and the other socialist countries will continue to be the cornerstone of South Yemeni foreign policy.

Together with its friends and allies and all peace-loving states in the Asian region, the Soviet Union, surmounting the difficulties and obstacles, will continue to search hard for ways of safeguarding lasting peace and security in Asia.

SOBOLEV ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS MEMORANDUM

LD302222 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Vitaliy Sobolev commentary]

[Text] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has highly appraised the Soviet memorandum titled International Economic Security of States Is in Important Condition in Improving International Economic Relations. The memorandum, according to Perez de Cuellar, reflects the ideals of the United Nations. Here is a Latest News commentary:

The Soviet memorandum has attracted the attention of and drawn a positive reaction from the world community because it is a continuation of our country's foreign-political efforts so that the principle of arms instead of development, which has been imposed by militarism, may be replaced by an opposite tenet: disarmament for development.

The new international economic order is a question not only of justness and humanism. International economic security is an integral part of international security in general. Certain bourgeois figures are also showing an understanding of this connection. For example, the former FRG chancellor, Helmut Schmidt said that if the most acute social problems of the developing world are not solved, there will be inevitable shockwaves and conflicts in the very near future which, Schmidt said, will sweep away everything. And, while unjust international relations still exist, this problem will continue to be exacerbated.

The pumping out of funds by the industrial capitalist powers from the economies of their junior partners is now, in addition to the old channels, particularly active through the financial mechanism of foreign debt, and is growing together with an increase in this debt. On such a scale this phenomenon is comparatively new, but it is already clear how explosive its consequences could be. What is also dangerous for peace is the fact that the imperialist powers are using economic international relations as a political tool in their egotistical, and at times aggressive, aims. Examples are the economic aggression against Nicaragua, Libya and quite a few others.

In advancing concrete proposals in the field of international economic security, our country is once again displaying a sense of profound responsibility for the fate of mankind. Our own economic might and self-sufficiency in resources, and our relations within the framework of the socialist community, make us virtually invulnerable in the face of various boycotts and sanctions, not to mention, of course, the intrigues of the multinational monopolies. However, a rebuilding of international economic relations on the basis of justness and equality is a vital problem not only for the developing countries. In the final analysis, the peoples of the industrial countries of the West are also deeply interested in such a rebuilding, even though their governments hold an egotistical and short-sighted position.

The positive reaction in the United Nations to the Soviet memorandum on international economic security shows that the world community, on the whole, is fully determined to strive for the fulfillment of this vital task of the present day.

ZHUKOV OPENS MOSCOW PEACE COMMITTEE SESSION 30 JAN

LD302231 Moscow TASS in English 2022 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 30 TASS -- "Mankind has so closely approached the fatal boundary beyond which there can be an all-destructive nuclear conflagration that time has come to stop, to think, and through joint efforts to find solutions making it possible to start moving away from that boundary". Such are the words with which Yuriy Zhukov, chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, declared open a meeting of representatives of the Soviet public in Moscow today. The meeting was dedicated to the International Year of Peace.

When discussing an action programme of the Soviet peace champions, those present pointed out the exceptional importance of the foreign-policy initiatives and concrete proposals in the field of disarmament set out in the statement of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet programme for complete elimination of nuclear weapons around the world expresses the hopes and aspirations of all the peoples, speakers emphasized.

"Intended for a period of 15 years, the Soviet programme for the elimination of nuclear arsenals", said Sergey Zaychenko, an automotive worker from the city of Kremenchug in the Ukraine, "means disarmament in the name of development, and means a withdrawal of billions of roubles, dollars and pounds from the military budgets in order to raise people's well-being and to combat unemployment, diseases and hunger".

A message from U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to the participants in the meeting was read out. The U.N. secretary-general recalled in the message that the motto of the International Year of Peace is "to preserve peace and future of mankind". These two notions are inseparably interconnected. The prevention of nuclear war is an indispensable condition for all our aspirations, he emphasised.

Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, chairperson of the Soviet Women's Committee, pointed out that the problems of peace and disarmament had acquired paramount importance in the activities of various women's organizations.

The participants in the meeting adopted a statement expressing the hope that the peoples of the world will multiply efforts in the striving for a practical implementation of the lofty slogan of the International Year of Peace: To preserve peace and future of mankind.

NATO 'ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT' SOVIET INITIATIVES

LD291429 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Viktor Levin commentary]

[Text] The NATO headquarters, as a DPA report from Brussels states, has published a report which asserts that the Soviet Union is stepping up military spending with the aim of creating the most up-to-date armaments systems. Here is a Mayak commentary; at the microphone is Viktor Levin.

As one can tell from this report, the NATO headquarters report makes no mention of the Soviet peaceful proposals set forth in the statement by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. However, in essence the report manifestly constitutes an attempt to cast a shadow over the Soviet initiatives and to justify a continuation of the militaristic policy. It is known that the NATO leaders are persistently striving to get all members of the bloc to systematically increase military allocations by a minimum of 3 percent a year. These demands not only do not give rise to enthusiasm in a whole number of West European countries, but are met with open resistance. Thus the bosses of the bloc are trying to twist their partners' arms. In order to make their demands seem well-founded, they refer to patently falsified data on the USSR's budget.

The NATO report repeats an old thesis. But, under present conditions, it also contains an absolutely definite concealed meaning: precisely, it attempts to discredit Soviet initiatives. Even the greatest hotheads in NATO cannot bring themselves to do this directly. The Soviet proposals are too outstanding [yarkii] but an attack on them is waged by degrees. By what methods? By the same methods which have long been part of the arsenal of NATO propagandist means, by juggling, falsification, through calculations that far from all people in the West have the possibility of getting an idea of the Soviet leader's statement from the primary source. After all, this document answers directly to current NATO thoughts.

There it is written in black and white that together with the removal of mass annihilation weapons from states' arsenals the Soviet Union proposes that conventional armaments and armed forces should also be a subject of agreed reductions. Especially singled out is the question of a ban on the creation of non-nuclear armaments based on new physical principles -- that is, in particular beam weapons, radiowave and genetic weapons. That is the very latest things which NATO is trying to rebuke us for intending to create.

It is of course naive to expect that the NATO headquarters should approve the Soviet initiatives. However, the facts should not be distorted so brazenly.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS BODY MEETS IN PARIS

PM290913 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Yu. Kovalenko report under the general heading "At the Service of Progress"]

[Excerpts] Paris -- The problems of the international exchange of information and the struggle against information imperialism were at the center of attention for participants in a session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Communications Development Program held in the French capital.

Speaking at the session, A. Krasikov, deputy general director of TASS and the USSR's representative on the Intergovernmental Council of the International Communications Development Program, stressed that from the very beginning of the program's activity certain Western countries wanted to use the program as a cover for the creation in developing states of a whole series of branches obedient to them, which would operate under the national sign but in practice would deprive those countries of cultural autonomy and make it easier for multinational companies to penetrate them further.

This session examined more than 100 concrete projects for aid to developing states in the creation and development of national information media and the establishment of cooperation on a regional basis.

After the withdrawal of the United States and Britain from UNESCO, Japan has become the main initiator of attacks on the anti-imperialist thrust of the International Communications Development Program. Japan's representative insisted that the developing countries renounce the struggle against information imperialism. But this demand was rebuffed by the majority of delegations.

A new presidium of the Intergovernmental Council was elected at the Paris session. It includes representatives of Benin, India, Nigeria, the USSR, France, and other countries. Gunnar Garbo (Norway) was reelected chairman.

REPORTAGE, COMMENTARY ON SHUTTLE EXPLOSION

'Mysterious Circumstance' Reported

LD301719 Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 30 TASS -- TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev reports:

The tragedy off Cape Canaveral in which seven American astronauts died has shocked people around the United States. Millions of Americans are asking what went wrong aboard the shuttle Challenger which exploded in the sky of Florida only 74 seconds after lift-off.

The Challenger catastrophe gives rise to many questions to which there are few answers, says the CBS television company. Specialists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are now carefully investigating all data relating to the disaster.

Coast guard and naval ships of the USA continue combing a vast area of about 5,500 square miles in the Atlantic in search of Challenger's fragments that might give a clue to the causes of the explosion.

Quoting non-governmental experts THE WASHINGTON POST says that the blast most certainly resulted from a failure in one or more of many shuttle components that are supposed to control the rate at which the fuel burns. This "controlled bomb", the newspaper says, is supposed to burn its fuel at a furious but controlled pace for 8.5 minutes, hurling the shuttle into orbit.

The CBS reports that one mysterious circumstance came to light during attempts to trace the causes of the tragedy. The CBS learned that servicemen engaged in the rescue mission were ordered not to touch any green cylinder or green-coloured fragments they may discover. Instead they were told only to mark the place of the find and call a special team. NASA representatives said that these fragments contain substances dangerous to health but they did not specify what kind of substance they were, the CBS correspondent said.

Commentators say that the tragedy off Cape Canaveral will delay considerably the implementation of the American space program. It has already been announced that no more shuttles will be launched before the completion of the official inquiry. This seriously affects the interests of the Pentagon which was planning for this year four secret shuttle flights for military purposes. An official spokesman for the Pentagon admitted on Wednesday that the Challenger tragedy would seriously affect military space programs. The CBS correspondent at the Pentagon compared the loss of one shuttle with a simultaneous destruction of a quarter of all the U.S. Air Force.

Another important problem raised by the Challenger disaster is that of dangerous consequences of implementation of the "star wars" program. In the event of deployment of a space arms network by the USA, a tragic chance occurrence may have irreparable consequences.

Americans Reconsidering SDI

LD302216 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 30 Jan 86

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Vyacheslav Lavrenteyev]

[Text] The U.S. press continues to publish reports concerning the death of the space-ship Challenger and the seven astronauts onboard it. [sentence as heard]

Many interviews with people who were present at the take-off, with astronauts who have been to space, and with those who are going to fly there are being published. The bourgeois press, trained in sensations, tries to obtain maximum effect from this tragic event.

During the search for debris of the ship, a large number of fragments have been found, including a cone-shaped object sized 4.5 meters. Presumably, that is the nose cone of one of the accelerators. Several guesses concerning the reasons for the crash of the ship have already appeared in the press, although the official investigation, according to NASA representatives, could last several months. The ABC network recommends questioning the Rockwell International corporation, a department of which produced the main thrusters of the Challenger. This company is one of the main contractors of the Pentagon in connection with the work on the "star wars" program.

The fate of the Challenger makes many Americans reconsider their views on the space military plans of their administration. Imagine, what would happen if a spaceship blew up after weapons had been deployed in space within the framework of the Strategic Defense Initiative, asks Robert Bowman, director of the Institute for Space and Security studies? Who would be able to tell then if such an explosion was a result of a ship malfunction, or if it was destroyed by antisatellite weapons? Computers would immediately react to the explosion, swinging the whole system into action.

Bowman has expressed hope that the catastrophe will help the administration to become more aware of the danger of the star wars program and push it closer to talks with the Soviet Union on nuclear and space weapons.

FRG Politician Cited

LD302347 Moscow TASS in English 1905 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Bonn, January 30 TASS -- The U.S. space shuttle Challenger tragedy is a reason good enough to revise the attitude to the ominous plans of militarizing outer space, in particular the American "Strategic Defense Initiative", Karsten Voigt, a prominent West German politician and public figure who is a member of the Bundestag and a member of the board of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, said today.

The Challenger tragedy prompts the conclusion in relation to the SDI, he said, that a policy oriented exclusively at technology can represent a threat to world peace.

Japanese Question U.S. Technology

LD302032 Moscow TASS in English 1951 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Tokyo, January 30 TASS -- The disaster with the Challenger shuttle demonstrated the entire danger with which super-sophisticated technology is fraught and its ability to let man down despite all the backup systems, it was stated by the anchorman of the Japanese NHK television station. The tragedy also has another aspect even though it might not yet be appropriate to speak about it, it was stated in the news programme. The sudden explosion of the Challenger, of which no warning came from computers on board the ship and on the ground, might make many people wonder about the reliability of American-made technology.

U.S. Scientist Raps Computers

LD302350 Moscow TASS in English 2220 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] New York, January 30 TASS -- The Challenger tragedy has brought us back to reality and shown that it is impossible to create ideally perfect mechanisms, and first of all computers for military and commercial aims, it was stated by John Pike, a representative of the Federation of American Scientists. When the tragedy occurred on Tuesday computers failed to warn either the astronauts or mission control about the impending disaster, he went on. But it is exactly to electronic computers that one of the main roles is given in the "Strategic Defense Initiative" which provides for the development and deployment of an ABM system in space, the scientist said.

Article Assesses 'Tragedy'

PM301918 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 86 First Edition p 1,6

[Article by V. Gubarev: "The Challenger Tragedy"]

[Text] There seemed to be a kind of jinx on the craft. There had been breakdowns in each of its 10 flights. Some of them were corrected literally a few seconds before launch, others required more meticulous repairs, so the launch had to be postponed.

"The prelaunch countdown ended normally, and the craft's three main hydrogen and oxygen engines had been switched on. Two had reached full thrust and the other was nearly there, when all three were ordered to be shut down. This happened 2-3 seconds before engagement of the solid fuel boosters..."

"The onboard computers gave the command to shut down the main engines because they had registered the failure of one of the valves in the No 2 engine to close. After the engines had been shut down the launch area was washed down with water to prevent a fire. The astronauts left Challenger 40 minutes later..."

"During the solid fuel booster phase the flight proceeded normally, but when the boosters separated, approximately 3 minutes 40 seconds after the launch, the gauge on one of the three main engines showed that the turbo-driven fuel pump unit had begun to overheat. The onboard computers shut the engine down. There was danger of damage to the engine and to the whole craft..."

I have cited a few episodes from the craft's life. They had been reported from the space center and from Mission Control. Unfortunately, the file in which I have collected the information about the shuttles abounds in reports about technical failures. Fortunately, it had always been possible to correct them in time -- either as a result of selfless and heroic work by the astronauts or because the experts managed to analyse the situation and take the correct decision.

This time there was a tragedy.

At an altitude of 15 kilometers one of the boosters exploded; the fuel tank filled with liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen was alongside it. A fiery torch flared for an instant -- many people at the space center were not even aware what was going on. Seven inhabitants of earth perished in the inferno, they perished on the threshold of space, without even crossing it.

Television cameras recorded the tragedy, and the ball of fire that claimed seven lives burned deep into the hearts of millions of people in the world, of each of us...

Their names will remain forever in the history of cosmonautics: two women -- Judith Resnik and Sharon Christa McAuliffe, and five men -- Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Gregory Jarvis, Ellison Onizuka, and Ronald McNair.

In a telegram to U.S. President R. Reagan on behalf of all Soviet people M.S. Gorbachev expressed condolences to the U.S. people and to the families of the dead, noting that we share the feelings of grief at the tragic death of the astronauts.

It is 25 years since the first man was launched into space. It seems a long time to us. In fact, we have seen cosmonautics achieve tremendous successes. Long space expeditions are being carried out, automatic stations are transmitting photographs of satellites of distant planets in the solar system, there were flights to the Moon a long time ago, fundamentally new technology has been created which would have seem fantastic 25 years ago... Many of us have already become accustomed to space flights, and one cannot easily recall the names of the people who have been into space, nearly 200 already. And it must be said that certain people were in a hurry to call the profession of "cosmonaut" a specialty with, of course, its own special features, but, nonetheless, ordinary.

Tragedies in cosmonautics tell a different story...

There had been no tragedies in cosmonautics since 30 June 1971. There had been very difficult flights demanding of the cosmonauts and astronauts the utmost courage and heroism, but they always came out of the battle against the unknown with honor; they pushed on stubbornly and persistently, conquering space. The cosmonauts and astronauts were invariably the victors, although not everyone knew at what cost victory was achieved.

There was a meeting between cosmonauts and writers at the PRAVDA editorial office. We talked about it in detail in the paper, but I want to mention that the underlying theme of the conversation was the heroism of the person working in incredibly difficult conditions. "Flights are risky," Georgiy Grechko said at the time, "and we must not forget that for a moment. Believe the experience of all cosmonauts that there are no easy flights; something unforeseen always happens, and you have to be ready for it. This is the feature of our profession."

We are not always aware of the entire complexity and exceptionally risky nature of space flight, giving greater attention to their external, spectacular aspects. And suddenly, a tragedy....

THE GUARDIAN writes: "Lessons must be learned from the disaster at Cape Canaveral. The exploration of space is a desperately risky enterprise which should be undertaken by professionals and in which there must be room for the elements of advertising show which are constantly introduced in it by U.S. politicians who are vitally interested in using the space flight program for propaganda purposes."

Secondary school teacher Sharon Christa McAuliffe died in the Challenger flight.... She was the winner of a competition held in the United States in which 11,000 teachers took part. The "Teacher and Space" program was born during the 1984 presidential election campaign. McAuliffe won, and she was to have given school pupils two geography lessons from space orbit.... I am not arguing, it is probable that such "geography lessons" will be useful and necessary in the future, but now they are planned for purely advertising purposes.

For the time being astronautics must remain the domain of professionals, specialists, and scientists; it is impermissible to transplant all kinds of shows into it. And our colleagues from THE GUARDIAN are absolutely right in this.

The Cape Canaveral tragedy has cast light on the complex situation that has developed inside and around NASA. A UPI correspondent recently reported from the space center: "The previous space flight year demonstrated the growing maturity of the shuttle flight program, and NASA hopes to carry out 24 space flights a year by the end of the decade." It is well known that the shuttle program is costly and that payment has to be made for flights by astronauts from other countries and for scientific research carried out at the initiative of scientists from the FRG, Britain, France, or other states. And a hefty payment, at that! This is why the European countries are developing their own delivery vehicles and why NASA, trying to win over its competitors, is forced to hurry. Including in the process of preparation for space vehicle launches. Of course NASA needs money. And it can be earned by commercial flights. Is it, however, sensible to risk people's lives, to harry engineers and technicians, and to cut down the time taken for maintenance work for the sake of such flights? And all this is done to involve rich firms in space programs.

Columbia was launched 12 January. The launch was initially planned for 18 December 1985, but it was postponed on seven occasions! The reasons varied: The launch team could not complete the checks, faults developed in the solid fuel accelerator control system, a gauge failed, then the weather at the space center deteriorated, which was followed by a liquid oxygen drainage valve refusing to open, and so on. Generally speaking, none of this is unusual: We are talking about a most complex space rocket system with millions of parts and components, and the slightest defect can result in disaster.

It must not be thought that the U.S. specialists were unconcerned with the crew's safety: They tried to foresee all possible breakdowns, but the haste showed.

Prior to every launch NASA spokesmen give numerous interviews whose purpose is advertising. After all, without advertising you will receive neither additional appropriations nor backing in America. But there are two sides to the coin of advertising. It influences not only the spectators but also the actual performers. Hence the opinion of their own infallibility.

Not a single one of Challenger's previous flights took place without drawbacks, and quite serious ones at that. The crews were on the brink of disaster on two occasions. It did not happen then.

Challenger's last flight was also postponed. Officially due to the weather, although skies above the space center were clear, but in actual fact due to technical faults.

"We are inaugurating a sensational year for space science," state B. Edelson, head of scientific research at NASA.

How was it possible to further postpone Challenger's launch in view of the fact that it was carrying equipment for investigating Halley's comet and "sensational" results had already been announced?!

I have visited the United States, met with astronauts and scientists, and visited space centers. They do magnificent work there, much of which is a source of justifiable pride to U.S. science as some of it is to all mankind, because it has taken people of earth aloft and helped us gain a closer view of other worlds. When in America, however, I heard it said many times that the tallest building is found in America and that the best service, the best computers, the longest bridge, even the wealthiest casino are also in America. This may be treated with a sense of irony... But the words "the most" have a different ring when it concerns "the most powerful ICBM," "the most powerful nuclear submarine," or "the fastest bomber." Different ideas come to mind here, particularly concerning the attempt to achieve military superiority. Unfortunately, the U.S. space research program was also involved in the arms race.

An ABC correspondent reported: "The Challenger tragedy has wrecked the plans of the Pentagon, which was to have carried out two secret missions involving reusable spacecraft in the first half of this year. However, the main victim of the catastrophe, a leading specialist of a New York special space research laboratory acknowledges, was Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative program, which relied very much on these vehicles."

Unfortunately the tragedy's main victim was not SDI but the seven astronauts. And, when mourning their deaths, we should learn the lesson of the impermissibility of "star wars." Yes, Challenger is a complex space system but it exploded because of a technical fault. And the SDI system is a complex set of satellites, battle stations, and spacecraft, the "glittering future of the triumph of technology," as its advocates write. But do they ever think that the slightest fault in that technology could cause a world catastrophe? And who can guarantee that such a fault will not happen -- after all, the SDI system can only be tested once -- during a world nuclear war!

"Let us imagine that the spacecraft had exploded in orbit with arms systems deployed in space," R. Bowman, director of the Institute for the Study of Space and Security Problems stated, "who could then have found out whether the explosion was caused by an on-board system failure or whether it had been destroyed by an antisatellite weapon? Strictly speaking, no one could find out since the computers controlling the arms system deployed in space would respond to the explosion instantaneously. They would issue only one command -- to send those systems into action. This is one of the most likely ways that a nuclear war could start by accident...Mankind is now even more deeply aware of the terrible danger which the deployment of arms in space threatens the planet."

All the foreign news agencies report that America is deeply shaken by what has happened and that a period of national mourning has been declared. We Soviet people share the pain of loss with the Americans. The scientists, cosmonauts, and specialists who make space flights possible have expressed their condolences to their U.S. colleagues. The Challenger tragedy has shown once again the complexity of modern cosmonautics. But there is no doubt that the dead astronauts' work will be continued by their friends and comrades in the United States and the heroic conquerors of space in other countries. The progress of civilization cannot be halted and, while mourning the loss, it is necessary to continue going forward.

The Challenger tragedy has affected everyone in the world. Some courageous and heroic people have been killed and the best memorial to them would be a pooling of efforts in the face of that mighty and cruel space, which we are committed to use for the good of man, not to harm him.

TRUD Analyzes Explosion

PM311135 Moscow TRUD in Russian 31 Jan 86 p 3

[Text] Washington, January 30 -- The leadership of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced the official start of an investigation into the crash of the space shuttle Challenger and the death of its seven astronauts.

According to the NBC television network, "dozens of experts are studying the pictures and video recordings of the explosion from various viewpoints." Simultaneously, the search for Challenger wreckage has continued for the second day. A considerable amount of fragments with a total weight of several hundred kilograms has been retrieved. No important parts of the craft have been found, however.

Analyzing possible causes of the disaster, the ABC television network points out that "many questions should be addressed to the companies that build shuttle craft and their components."

"The Challenger's three basic propulsion units," the T.V. company observes, "were manufactured by Rocketdine, a subsidiary of Rockwell International Corp. Previous flights of the craft had been repeatedly postponed due to faults in the propulsion units."

In this connection, news analysts draw attention to the fact that it is Rockwell International which is one of the Pentagon's chief contractors working on the "star wars" programme.

Much comment has been generated by the reports that Coast Guard units, engaged in the search for Challenger debris, have been ordered not to touch any green cylinders or green-coloured fragments that they might find.

Instead, notes the CBS television network, they are to designate the location of such finds and call out a special team. NASA officials announced that such fragments might contain substances hazardous to human health.

These facts, in the opinion of Gus Hall, general secretary of the Communist Party, USA, confirm the reports that have filtered into the press to the effect that the Challenger carried new secret explosives that were to have been tested in zero-gravity. He stressed during a press conference in New York that faults in electronic equipment were revealed practically during each flight of the reusable spaceplanes.

"Quite definite conclusions follow, related, specifically, to the 'star wars' programme. An anti-missile defence system with space-based elements would require hundreds of tons more equipment than that carried by the Challenger. As a result, the system would become a hundred times more unpredictable," Gus Hall stressed.

This opinion is shared by many authoritative American experts who believe that the Challenger's crash is a serious warning to those who are planning to deploy weaponry systems in outer space.

Robert Bowman, director of the institute studying space and security problems, said that the administration's Strategic Defence Initiative programme provides for space deployment of armaments that are controlled and directed by computers.

By the way, studies recently confirmed by a special consultative commission of the Pentagon prove the impossibility of devising a control system that would reliably guarantee against malfunctioning and response to false signals. Just imagine, Bowman said, that a spacecraft explodes in orbit when arms systems are deployed in outer space.

Who can find out whether the explosion was caused by faulty equipment on board the craft, or it was destroyed by anti-satellite weapons? Well, no one would have to, since battle-management computers would immediately respond to the explosion. They would issue only one command activating corresponding systems. This is a likely possibility which is fraught with a nuclear catastrophe.

Bowman expressed the hope that the Challenger disaster would impel the architects of the "star wars" programme to realize the threat and would encourage the administration for constructive talks with the Soviet Union on nuclear and space armaments. Weapons should be kept out of space, Bowman stressed.

However, according to reports in the American mass media, the U.S. Defence Department, on the contrary intends to accelerate the implementation of its Strategic Defence Initiative. The CBS television network points out that the construction of a new launch site is nearing completion at the U.S. air base at Vandenberg, California. Using the new facility, the Pentagon and NASA will be able to launch up to 24 reusable spacecraft a year.

The CBS, quoting Pentagon sources, reveals that plans of the Defense Department, drawn up last year, provide for the construction of a new booster rocket in the event of a shuttle crash, which would cost two billion dollars.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reports, quoting Pentagon officials, that U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger issued a secret directive to the Armed Forces giving top priority to President Reagan's SDI programme among other Pentagon schemes. The newspaper stresses that the statement included into the annual secret defense directive attests to the Pentagon's determination to go ahead, come what may, with the "star wars" programme.

Zholkver Commentary

LD301912 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 30 Jan 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] Now let us dwell on the other, as it were, space aspect of the Soviet proposals. In connection with the U.S. "star wars" program which lies behind the mask of the Strategic Defense Initiative, in an editorial article today PRAVDA again points out that it is impossible to create a universal space defense. At best it is an illusion from the technical, economic and political points of view. But any space shield can be very easily turned into a space sword. At the same time it is naive to seek solutions for the security problem by improving one's shield and one's sword. In our times there can be no security for the United States without security for the USSR, no security for NATO countries without security for the states of the Warsaw Pact -- without this there can be no universal security. This is now being increasingly frequently admitted in the West, too. London's THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, for example, writes that President Reagan previously asserted that his Strategic Defense Initiative would be a shield against nuclear weapons.

However, now, when the USSR has proposed a total elimination of these weapons, such an argument is no longer valid.

Similar statements can now be heard on the other side of the Atlantic, too, even though, as THE WASHINGTON POST put it, the U.S. Administration continues to be paralyzed by the Moscow statement.

The broad discussion which has begun in the United States, especially in scientific circles, on this problem has taken on a new and dramatic aspect in connection with the disaster which befell the Challenger space shuttle. The reasons for the disaster have not yet elucidated, even though a search group and a multitude of commissions of experts are engaged in this. [Video shows U.S. television clips of NASA officials and search for wreckage]

Some of this recalls that the launch of Challenger and of the other similar vessel Columbia before it had been postponed several times due to all sorts of malfunctions. There was not always enough time to rectify them as the launches were following one after the other.

The CBS Pentagon correspondent has reported that NASA cannot keep up with the demands of its main client, the military, which is continuing research in the sphere of the SDI. The correspondent reported that this might lead to the possibility that the number of flights reserved by the military, which is currently 10 per year, could be doubled.

Even now, after the Challenger disaster, demands are being heard in Washington that the implementation of the military space program must not be halted in any circumstances. However, at present many Americans, and by no means just these horrified students from the college where Christa McAuliffe, one of the members of the Challenger crew, taught, [video shows spectators watching launch disaster] are trying to understand the essence and the scale of what has happened. For example, THE WASHINGTON POST cites one of the scientists working in the Pentagon about the unreliability of the computers which were unable to prevent or to report on the Challenger disaster. What would have happened if this had been a military flight or, even worse, if it had had weapons on board as planned by the authors of all sorts of "star wars" plans? [Video shows shuttle explosion]

And, judging by everything, even now they do not intend to give up their plans. UPI today reported that in a directive from Defense Secretary Weinberger the "star wars" program is presented as of equal importance to the programs for the modernization of the U.S. strategic nuclear forces and even acquires, as he put it, top priority.

Belitskiy Examines Tragedy

LD310152 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Station science correspondent Boris Belitskiy Commentary]

[Text] First of all, there is something our science correspondent, Boris Belitskiy, would like to say on behalf of all of us here at the studios of Radio Moscow:

The news of the terrible tragedy that overtook the space shuttle Challenger and its crew of seven, including two women, has stunned us all, as it has people here generally. These feelings have been expressed in a message of condolences from the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to President Reagan.

As a nation that pioneered space exploration and pursues a vigorous, multipronged space program, we, too, have had space casualties and we, therefore, appreciate how deep is the sense of bereavement on the death of heroes exploring that new and dangerous environment, and we extend our profound condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of these seven heroic men and women.

But there's also something else that has to be said, if only briefly on this sad occasion. The loss of these seven lives, as profoundly tragic as it is, could be completely overshadowed by casualties on a far, far greater scale. As you've probably heard, computer experts were baffled on Tuesday about why none of the five onboard computers detected anything wrong with Challenger's operation until the instant the craft exploded. Now just think of the endless number of computers it's proposed to involve in the administration's "star wars" program.

What if they detected nothing wrong during the testing or deployment of space strike weapons until it was too late? It would, therefore, be of immeasurable benefit to humanity if, in mourning the loss of these seven heroes of space exploration, more and more people came to realize how vital it is that outer space be kept an arena of peaceful research and applications, that it be kept weapon free. It is with this thought in mind that many people salute Challenger's intrepid crew.

Soviet Press Treatment

PM301441 [Editorial report] All Soviet central daily newspapers for thirty January report the explosion of the U.S. space shuttle "Challenger" prominently on their main foreign news pages, with IZVESTIYA's morning edition, TRUD, and SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA also reproducing a TV shot of the smoke trail in the sky following the disaster. PRAVDA first edition and IZVESTIYA morning edition both front-page General Secretary Gorbachev's brief message of condolence to President Reagan.

In varying degrees of detail the papers report the events surrounding the shuttle crash, the scene at mission control, reactions among those present and among the wider U.S. public, and the already emerging debate on the causes of the "major malfunction" and the dangers of manned spaceflight in general. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's early edition, in the briefest report of all, attributed to TASS, notes without comment President Reagan's pledge that "the U.S. space program will continue." KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, SELSKAYA ZHIZN, SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA, INDUSTRIYA, and the government paper IZVESTIYA stick to reporting the facts, with IZVESTIYA notably emphasizing the human stories involved and taking a sympathetic tone in reports from its correspondents L. Koryavin and A. Palladin under the headline "Tragedy That Has Shaken America". Palladin concludes his dispatch: "As the local TV stresses, one of the first condolence messages to the American people came from the USSR Embassy in Washington."

Other papers, in contrast, are not slow to point up the shuttle program's SDI connection and the implications for it of Challenger's loss. Reporting from Washington for the trade union paper TRUD, correspondent A. Burmistenko writes: "As today's WASHINGTON POST writes, the Challenger explosion also affects in the most direct fashion the interests of the Pentagon, which 'uses the shuttle's considerable load-carrying potential for launching large reconnaissance and communications satellites and also for carrying out experiments in the sphere of President Reagan's "Strategic Defense initiative," better known under the name "star wars."'"

PRAVDA's V. Gan, in his page five dispatch from Washington, waxes indignant: "Although you would think that the spectacle of people dying, as it were, in public would emphasize the acute need for mankind to pool its creative efforts in the difficult task of peacefully exploring outer space, there were figures in Washington who deemed it possible to champion its very rapid militarization. 'Sources in the Administration and Congress,' THE WASHINGTON POST observes in this regard, 'have expressed the hope that the Pentagon's part of the program will not suffer seriously as a result of the explosion.'"

TASS correspondent M. Knyazkov also refers to the "star wars" connection in his page three New York dispatch for the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA first edition: "In the middle of the day President Reagan appeared on TV screens. He said that America was overcome with grief. He also said that the United States would continue its program of space exploration. But the major question underlying many commentaries is: What could the notorious "star wars" program have in store for the world when, according to Pentagon designs, strike arms are to be deployed [prazmeshcheny] in space?

"Today the conquest of space still entails tremendous risk. But what kind of tragedy could result for mankind from a total 'malfunction' on a space strike station?

"Undoubtedly Americans will be asking official Washington this question again. And undoubtedly the Cape Canaveral tragedy will not stop mankind making further efforts in the peaceful exploration of outer space. What is important, however, is something else. The Challenger tragedy has clearly shown that space must be an area for peaceful, and only peaceful, cooperation among people."

Earlier in his report, Knyazkov backs his concern over "malfunction" risks by citing a CNN interview with "American expert (G.) Williams" -- also cited in other press reports -- to the effect that "NASA 'has not studied the technical aspects of flights by reusable craft carefully enough.'"

The harshest tone in initial Soviet central press comment on the shuttle disaster is adopted by the youth paper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA -- one of the latest papers to publish each day -- in its thirty January edition. In a Washington dispatch by TASS correspondent A. Lyutyy on page three titled "Tragedy in the Florida Skies" the paper refers to suggestions that "NASA has become too confident of the infallibility, perfection, and reliability of shuttle-type craft and has begun unwisely speeding up the program." "NASA representatives," the report goes on, "are blaming the Pentagon -- they are saying that it is the military department, which has reserved the lion's share of flights for itself, that is urging us on. Will the tragic lesson be heeded? Hardly. As THE WASHINGTON POST writes, 'Administration and congressional spokesmen are expressing the hope that Pentagon participation in the space program will not be seriously harmed.'

"Once again, for the umpteenth time, plans for the feverish militarization of space are gaining the upper hand over common sense, over concern for people. Another question is being asked here too: How reliable will the President's system of ABM defense in space, as described by the head of the administration, prove to be? Shuttle-type craft constitute an integral part of that system, after all. What if a disaster of this kind happens again? What if carelessness, technical defect, or simple accident pitch the world into an unintended nuclear war?

"America, numb with grief, awaits an answer from the White House to these 'confounded questions' of the space age."

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SAVIMBI'S WASHINGTON VISIT

'Pompous Reception'

LD301814 Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 30 TASS -- Jonas Savimbi, chieftain of the anti-Angolan splinter group UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], has been received like a guest of honor in the U.S. capital.

After meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz behind closed doors for more than an hour, Savimbi said he was quite satisfied with the conversation and hoped it would lead to progress.

Commentators agreed that what he meant was a solution to the issue of providing American military aid to UNITA, which, according to press reports, could total as many as 300 million dollars.

Savimbi discussed the concrete details of such shipments in a meeting with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Admiral William Crowe, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at the Pentagon.

The UNITA chieftain today meets with President Ronald Reagan in the White House.

The pompous reception given to Savimbi in Washington is easy to explain. The Washington report on Africa bulletin commented that the U.S. Administration was thus seeking to shape public opinion in the country to set the stage for announcing military aid to UNITA, which would enable the latter to step up subversive activities against Angola.

The visit by the bandit group's chieftain was harshly criticized by sober-minded U.S. politicians and public personalities. Congressman George Crockett said granting military aid to Savimbi would only exacerbate the situation in southern Africa and encourage South Africa to stage further armed forays against its neighbours.

Talks With Weinberger, Shultz

LD301913 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 30 Jan 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Excerpt] U.S. weapons concerns get fat on the proceeds of producing not only nuclear weapons but also conventional ones which are supplied not only to the U.S. Army but also to a multitude of military formations of U.S. mercenaries. Among these the name that has been cropping up particularly frequently recently is the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] gangs which operate in Angola.

Savimbi, the leader of these gangs, has been received with pomp in Washington over the past few days. He conducted official talks with Pentagon chief Weinberger and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. [video shows clips of these meetings] The U.S. congress is now engaged in a broad discussion of the plans for increasing allocations for armaments for the UNITA gangs which engage in terrorist and sabotage actions in Angola.

I would like to note that in the past few days Soviet-Angolan-Cuban consultations have been taking place in Moscow. The Soviet side was represented by Comrade Shevardnadze, Ponomarev, Sokolov and other officials. The consultations discussed the possible development of the situation around Angola in connection with the U.S. Administration's open support for and increased aid to UNITA, which is evidence of its direct interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Angola. The USSR and Cuba confirmed their solidarity with the struggle of the Angolan people in defense of their independent political choice.

Savimbi Regarded as 'Traitor'

LD302217 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 30 Jan 86

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Vyacheslav Lavrenteyev]

[Text] AFP reports from Washington on the reception of Savimbi, the ringleader of the Angolan counterrevolutionary grouping UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] who has arrived here, by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. The honor which is being paid to him in the U.S. capital is being regarded everywhere as proof of the intention of the United States to step up their support of the Angolan counterrevolution. Over to my colleague Vladimir Pasko: Indeed, Savimbi is being received on a high level. He meets members of the government and has even been received by the President; he is going to be given the floor at meetings of influential organizations. But who really is Savimbi, the recipient of such honors in the United States? Savimbi passes himself for a fighter for the free world. He is depicted in the very same way by his American patrons. It is exactly in this spirit that the (Virginia), one of the advertising agencies, which has made a \$600,000 contract to distribute a picture of Savimbi and his aides, incidentally, side by side with photographs of U.S. congressmen -- presumably, to make it look more significant -- intends to speak of him, judging by reports in the press.

In his home country Savimbi enjoys a different reputation. There, he is regarded as a traitor to the people, who, after Angola had been declared a people's republic, embarked on the path of armed struggle against its government, and who, while doing it, enjoys the overt support of the racist RSA. Killings of peaceful inhabitants, explosions at electric power transmission lines, oil pipelines, as well as other acts of sabotage, taking hostages, including foreign specialists who work in Angola, including representatives of Western countries -- these are the methods of Savimbi's struggle against the people's government.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. Congress, not wanting to associate itself with the terrorist activities of the UNITA ringleader, adopted a decision formally prohibiting the government to interfere in the internal affairs of Angola some time ago. Although this requirement has never been adhered to -- the United States has been rendering aid to UNITA via the CIA and the RSA -- apparently, to some extent, it has played a restricting role. But last summer, this decision was revoked. Moreover, the patrons of the counterrevolution have raised the question of wide expansion of the aid to the grouping headed by Savimbi. Now, judging from the press, what is involved is merely the question of choosing the way of rendering it -- overtly or through secret venues. Official propaganda justifies the support of Savimbi by the desire of the administration to reach a peaceful settlement in Angola. But these are but words; the true reasons for the aid are different. THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote a few days ago in connection with presenting Savimbi as a freedom fighter, that in reality, what makes Savimbi attractive is the fact that the Angolan Government, against which he comes out, is a Marxist government. It could hardly be more explicit than that.

KESHTMAND SPEAKS ON SOCIAL BASE OF DRA REVOLUTION

LD222302 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Mikhail Leschinskiy report; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A press conference devoted to the people's authorities' policy on broadening the social base of the Afghan revolution has taken place in Kabul.

[Begin recording by Mikhail Leschinskiy] Besides local journalists the press conference was attended by a large group of representatives from major papers, news agencies and television and radio companies from Western countries.

The journalists' questions were answered by re-elected members of the republic's government and Afghanistan's Revolutionary Council. They were appointed to these posts and elected to the Revolutionary Council in accordance with the decisions of the 16th Plenum of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] on broadening the social base of the revolution. So, who are these people? They are representatives of democratic women's organizations. Also members of so-called nonrevolutionary organizations, and even those who formerly were at the front of the counterrevolution and then came over to the side of the people's power, were present at the press conference. Obviously, the Western journalists were very interested in both Afghanistan's internal life and in its foreign policy.

Replying to a question from the Soviet television correspondent, Comrade Asad Keshtmand, deputy head of the PDPA Central Committee International Department, said that the party and government measures for broadening the social base of the revolution, besides having a great internal effect, will have a great international effect. This will make it possible to strengthen Democratic Afghanistan's international situation and international prestige, although by now Afghanistan already has diplomatic relations with 80 countries of the world, emphasized Comrade Keshtmand.

In conclusion, Comrade Keshtmand said that obviously strengthening Democratic Afghanistan's international prestige is a complicated process as it is taking place under the conditions of imperialism's overt, armed aggression against the republic. But we are convinced of the rightness of our cause and look to the future with optimism, he said. [end recording]

REPORTAGE ON TRIBAL FIGHTING IN KHYBER PASS AREA

Ratebzad Press Briefing

LD292022 Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- The undeclared war waged by imperialism and regional reaction against Afghanistan cannot hamper the steady improvement of the political situation in our country and the process of forging the unity and cohesion of all patriotic forces around the revolutionary government and the People's Democratic Party, said Anahita Ratebzad, a member of the Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and chairman of the organisation of peace, solidarity and friendship of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA). Anahita Ratebzad, who is on a stop-over in Moscow, addressed a press conference today for Soviet journalists.

The barbaric crimes by the counter-revolutionary scum spark outrage not only among the DRA people but also among fraternal tribes living in the zone of tribes' settlement in Pakistan.

They opposed the use of their territory as a springboard for gangster attacks on Afghanistan.

Anahita Ratebzad said that the DRA people express solidarity with the free Pashtun tribes battling for their freedom and independence, denounce the reprisals by the Pakistani authorities and demand that a stop be put to them without delay.

Responding to questions by journalists on the situation in Afghanistan, A. Ratebzad underlined that the central government bodies, including the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, incorporate non-party representatives of various social groups, tribes and nationalities. Free and equal elections of municipal authorities are held in the country for the first time, she said.

The decisions passed by the Loya Jirgah and the High Jirgah of frontier tribes, and the activity of Jamiat ul-Ulema contribute towards forging the unity of the Afghan people. All this on the whole extends the social base of the Afghan revolution and cuts the ground from under the counter-revolutionary forces, A Ratebzad said. About 30,000 counter-revolutionaries laid down arms, ceasing their fight against the people's power.

The idea of peace and peaceful co-existence of peoples is particularly dear to the Afghan people living in conditions of unceasing aggression. A Ratebzad said. Therefore, our people, party and government fully support the statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev, containing the proposal for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in the next 15 years. This is the programme of saving mankind from nuclear catastrophe. It is of immense importance not only to the present but also future generations.

Council Official Interviewed

PM301038 Moscow TRUD in Russian 29 Jan 86 p 1

[Unnamed TASS correspondent report: "Revolution's Goals and Tasks"]

[Text] Kabul, 28 Jan -- The measures now being taken to expand the April Revolution's social base have been preceded by such important steps as the nationwide discussion of the theses of the "national democratic nature of the revolution and its urgent tasks under present-day conditions," the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, the expansion of the DRA Revolutionary Council -- 71 percent of whose members are currently non-party people -- and elections to organs of local self-government.

This was stated to this TASS correspondent by (K.M. Chamkani), deputy chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council and chairman of the tribal jirgas' Standing Consultative Council. Afghan leaders, he said, are currently holding numerous meetings with representatives of the people, traveling around the country, explaining the revolution's goals and tasks in order to make each person aware of their meaning, and are exposing hostile propaganda.

Touching on the question of Pakistani aggression in the Pushtun tribal zone, (K.M. Chamkani) stressed that the Pakistani regime has pressed the regular army into service against the Pushtuns. As a result of this aggression women, old folk, and children have been killed and hundreds of homes have been destroyed. If Islamabad does not withdraw its troops from the tribal zone, (K.M. Chamkani) stated, other Pushtuns will come to the aid of the Afridi and Shinwari.

(Kc. M. Chamkani) made a high assessment of the relations of friendship and cooperation linking Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The USSR, he said, has always given Afghanistan fraternal aid in developing its economy, culture, education, and other spheres.

BAKHTAR Cited on Tension

PM291329 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Jan 86 p 3

[TASS report: "Kindling Aggression"]

[Text] Kabul, 23 Jan -- The Islamabad military regime is conducting a policy aimed at escalating aggression against the Pushtun tribes in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province. According to a Bakhtar new agency report, the Pakistani Army Command is massing new military units in the area of Jamrud with the aim of expanding its punitive actions.

The military authorities, BAKHTAR reports, have sent an ultimatum to the leader of the Afridi tribe Wali Khan Kuki Khayl demanding that tribal jirgas in the Taudah Menah district be stopped, and threatening to bomb the district if he does not comply. In a reply letter, the Pushtun leader stated that the Taudah Menah district is located in the free tribal zone. The Afridis will not bow to the diktat of the Pakistani authorities and will not allow anyone to foist his will on them.

Tension is rising in the area of Bajaur. Reports say that Pushtun tribes are hampering the construction of strategic roads there. For instance, fighters of the Etman Khayl tribe on two occasions attacked Pakistani Army construction units sent to the Takhtah Kandu area. They have thus thwarted the authorities' plans to build roads which would provide them with easier access to Pushtun settlements. A detachment of the Afridi tribe destroyed a bus near Parachinar which was being used to transport weapons to an Afghan counterrevolutionary gang. As a result of this armed action some 10 bandits were killed.

The Etman Khayl, Mamund, and Shmuzay Pushtun tribes have held a jirga at which they called for the immediate withdrawal of forces from the Khyber. Participants in a jirga of the Baram Kheyl, and Eysi Kheyl tribal clans in the area of Mohmand voiced the same demand. They expressed support for the April Revolution in Afghanistan, emphasizing that that country was a true friend of the Pushtun tribes.

The tragic events in the Khyber area and in other parts of Pakistan bordering on the DRA, the DRA news media note, are the result of a deal between the Islamabad military regime and Washington. Visits of U.S. emissaries to Pakistan have become more frequent of late. A few days ago, for instance, G. Crist a ranking U.S. military leader who heads the so-called U.S. Central Command (Centcom) has arrived in Islamabad. During his talks with the Pakistani authorities, the Pentagon envoy reportedly submitted a list of new "recommendations" connected with the escalation of aggression against the independent Pushtun tribes.

The cause of the heightened activity of U.S. diplomacy is obvious -- the tribes' unanimous decision to block the counterrevolutionary gangs' access to the DRA is thwarting U.S. plans to further expand the undeclared war against Democratic Afghanistan. Allocating hundreds of billions of dollars for weapons for the dushmans, the CIA did not dream that the bandits, armed to their teeth, might be stopped in Pakistan on the approaches to the Afghan border before they even reach the territory of the DRA? This is why the U.S. advocates of the policy of state terrorism are urging their Pakistani satellite to expand the punitive operations against the Pushtuns in order to break their will to resistance and to reopen their settlement area for bandits to pass through.

U.S. FINANCES 'MURDERERS' OF AFGHAN CHILDREN

PM301245 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Without a Shadow of Embarrassment"]

[Text] Kabul, 29 January -- The other day a meeting was held in Washington between the U.S. President and representatives of the Afghan counterrevolution.

The organizers of this farce were not sparing in their expressions of sympathy for the Afghan children allegedly perishing or being maimed "as a result of attacks by Afghan and Soviet soldiers." Passing off black as white without a shadow of embarrassment, states a commentary by the BAKHTAR agency, the U.S. Administration is trying to mislead world public opinion and shift responsibility for the crimes of the Afghan counterrevolution onto the shoulders of its victims.

However, it is already known to the world whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of totally innocent children, women, and old people: Precisely the U.S. Administration is encouraging and financing bands of murderers and saboteurs sent into Afghan territory. In the current financial year along, Washington has given the rebels \$470 million in the form of "aid," the agency recalls.

Local and foreign journalists, the commentary notes, have repeatedly witnesses the criminal activities of the Afghan counterrevolution with regard to children. The young Abdul Sabur lost both arms as a result of the detonation of an American mine which was disguised as a toy. No hypocritical "sympathies" can erase from Afghan's memories the explosions arranged by counterrevolutionaries in a number of regions of Kabul, which have ended the lives of dozens of Afghan children. Defenseless children perish during armed dushman attacks on schools and hospitals and as a result of the poisoning of wells by the rebels.

The truth is, BAKHTAR points out, that the DRA revolutionary authorities devote primary attention to the younger generation, and considerable effort must be expended in order to care for those who have been left orphaned or crippled through the will of rebel leaders who are received in the White House with such pomp. The DRA Government has been compelled to form a broad network of "Watan" children's homes throughout the country, where the young victims of imperialism's and reaction's undeclared war live and study.

The meeting between the U.S. President and representatives of the Afghan counterrevolution, the agency stresses, is nothing more than another political show intended to justify the increasing scale of aggressive intrigues against sovereign Afghanistan.

PAKISTANI NUCLEAR PROGRAM 'THREAT TO PEACE' IN ASIA

PM281812 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Jan 86 p 3

[Candidate of historical sciences A. Polyanskiy article: "Readers Ask: Does Pakistan Possess Nuclear Weapons?"]

[Text] Airport customs officers in the U.S. city of Houston seized an unusual item of contraband the year before last. A Pakistani citizen was trying to smuggle out of the United States a consignment of crytrons, electronic switches which can be used in the mechanism of a nuclear bomb. A noisy scandal erupted in the United States in this connection. Accusations of complicity were voiced against the government. But the American press did not bother with this matter for too long. The crytrons were forgotten.

It did become known some time later, however, that Islamabad had acquired a large consignment of electronic devices, including the aforementioned switches. In the opinion of the Indian press, the fact that Pakistan has obtained this equipment is evidence that it will possess nuclear weapons in the near future. This country already has the necessary technology enabling it to produce two nuclear bombs annually.

The Pakistani leaders formed the intention to join the "nuclear club" a long time ago and, obviously, not without Washington's blessing. Way back in the fifties and sixties the United States trained a large group of Pakistani nuclear physicists and supplied Pakistan with its first nuclear reactor.

Ignoring the treating on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the United States financed Pakistan's nuclear program. Furthermore, Washington is so interested in its ally's nuclear capability that it even committed a serious breach of its own legislation. The Symington amendment, which was passed by Congress, prohibits military assistance to any country elaborating projects for the creation of nuclear weapons. In addition to this, Washington regularly supplies the Ziaul Haq regime with F-16 fighter-bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons. The Pakistani Air Force already has 40 of these aircraft in service. According to British press reports, Islamabad is now seeking from Washington deliveries of specialized equipment to transform Boeing-707 passenger airliners into military tanker aircraft. This will enable the Pakistani Air Force to hit strategic targets throughout India's territory. Verbally, Washington "restrains Pakistan from producing nuclear weapons," while in actual fact it supplies the delivery means for these weapons.

Well-known U.S. journalist J. Anderson recently declared that he has succeeded in learning from U.S. intelligence community documents that Pakistan is already capable of carrying out a nuclear explosion or starting production of atom bombs without testing them.

The United States' NATO allies have also rendered much assistance to Pakistan in its nuclear research. According to the WALL STREET JOURNAL, West German, French, and Belgian firms have supplied Pakistan with equipment for nuclear projects.

Islamabad's nuclear ambitions cause legitimate anxiety in many nonaligned states, and primarily in India which perceives this as a grave threat to its security and to peace and stability in Asia. In an interview with the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi emphasized the dangerous nature of Pakistan's nuclear program. "We believe that the situation is developing adversely in this respect. We have evidence that Pakistan is developing its own nuclear weapons, which are more than likely to be used against India," R. Gandhi declared.

Indian Minister of External Affairs B.R. Bhagat also spoke of the Indian Government's anxiety and alarm in connection with Pakistan's intensive development of a nuclear program during his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz in New York last October. This is why the Reagan administration has recently been making attempts to deny by all means that it is helping Pakistan to implement its plans for the creation of a nuclear bomb. Moreover, people in Washington declare that the United States is allegedly even "exerting influence" on Islamabad to force it to halt the development of nuclear weapons. But the facts indicate the opposite.

Pakistan's development of its own nuclear weapons is a serious threat to peace and security in Asia. The public in Asian countries has repeatedly called on the Pakistani authorities to think over the consequences to which such a step may lead. But these appeals are being ignored by Ziaul Haq's military regime and its Washington patrons.

COOPERATION ACCORD SIGNED WITH SFRY

LD301244 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 2000 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] In Moscow today an agreement was signed on reciprocal trade between the USSR and the SFRY for 1986-1990 and a protocol on trade in 1986. The documents were signed by Boris Aristov, Soviet minister of foreign trade, and Milenko Bojanic, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign trade. The signing ceremony was attended by Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Boris Srebric, vice-president of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia, Milojko Drulovic, Yugoslav ambassador to the USSR, and the relevant associates of the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry. Following the signing of the documents the two sides exchanged speeches.

Boris Aristov, Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, said that the signed documents are of great importance for the strengthening and expansion of economic cooperation between our countries. Their realization will contribute to the successful development of the national economies of the USSR and Yugoslavia. In the past 5 year plan, Aristov went on, trade and economic ties comprised an important component in the (?overall) cooperation between the USSR and Yugoslavia. This is shown by the volume of trade whose value has exceeded \$37 billion, which is much more than planned. The coming 5 years envisage further increases in Soviet deliveries to Yugoslavia. [Words indistinct] development of trade between our countries [words indistinct] the inclusion of deliveries of Soviet machines and equipment, and the further development of specialization and industrial cooperation. Our countries will continue to pay attention to the development of scientific and technical cooperation in priority directions such as electronics in the national economies, automation, nuclear power industry, the creation of new materials and technologies. Our talks were traditionally friendly in character and took place in a businesslike and frank atmosphere, said Boris Aristov in conclusion.

Milenko Bojanic, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign trade, made a speech in reply.

[Begin Bojanic recording] [Words indistinct] for me to add a few words about the successful conclusion of our trade talks. I would indeed like to say that since last year when we set out, with determination, to remove commercial complications and today during the signing of the two documents, an excellent working atmosphere. In particular, friendship and comradeship prevailed thus enabling us to understand each other fully and to draw up very important documents to serve not as a [word indistinct] or a barrier to but as a basis for the development of cooperation. We are very pleased with our cooperation which we have jointly put into effect in the past 5 years. [Word indistinct] cooperation over this period has been very successfully realized and has considerably exceeded the planned projections. We shall, of course, continue to rely considerably on this kind of cooperation in the future.

The agreement on our trade for 1986 to 1990 and the protocol on trade for 1986 are very important documents which will facilitate the activities of our economic organizations and [word indistinct] and oblige our aides and assistants [words indistinct] to immediately begin work on the realization of this (?program.)

We are very close in our view of the importance of these documents and in our understanding that their [word indistinct] is only a basis and not word indistinct) for our cooperation. [words indistinct] if numerous opportunities and possibilities we talked about (?are realized) we hope that it will bring new qualitative elements. Since the tasks stemming from it are very difficult, we shall have to invest a lot of effort, [words indistinct] to encourage, make suggestions, [words indistinct].

I wish to convey our gratitude to you personally and to express our hope that all the problems we might encounter will be successful tackled [words indistinct].

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH BULGARIA ON JOINT ENTERPRISE

LD302232 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] In Sofia today a Soviet-Bulgarian inter-governmental agreement was signed on the establishment of a joint enterprise for the manufacture of automotive electronic goods, the first such enterprise in the history of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the CEMA member-countries. On the Soviet side the agreement was signed by Comrade Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and on the Bulgarian side by (?Doynov), member of the Central Committee Politburo of the Bulgarian Communist Party and chairman of the Economic Council of the Council of Ministers of the republic.

HONECKER INTERVIEWED ON ARMS RACE, GERMAN ROLE

LD302139 Moscow TASS in English 2018 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Berlin, January 30 TASS -- The German Democratic Republic wholly backs Mikhail Gorbachev's programme of ridding the world of nuclear arms by the year 2000, and regards it as a historic chance, Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of German and chairman of the State Council of the GDR, has stressed in an interview with the West German newspaper ZEIT.

The leader of the GDR pointed out that the new package of Soviet peace initiatives reaffirmed the USSR's resolve to advance towards stronger peace. The Geneva summit meeting and its results are of great importance for all of mankind. It created favourable conditions for preventing a nuclear disaster, ending the arms race on earth and keeping it out of space.

On the U.S. "Strategic Defence Initiative", Honecker pointed out that this programme enhances the risk of nuclear holocaust. The U.S. persistent desire to go ahead with the implementation of the space arms plans hinders already now progress at the disarmament talks.

The concentration of death-dealing weapons is nowhere as great as in Central Europe. This means for both German states that any military confrontation with the use of conventional or nuclear weapons would have devastating consequences.

Speaking on the special responsibility of the two German states for the destinies of peace, Honecker said that the two most terrible wars in the history of civilization started on German soil.

A third world war, a nuclear catastrophe would mean the self-destruction of mankind. "We believe," said the leader of the GDR, "that at present, when the 'star wars' programme of the United States is pushing the peoples towards a nuclear abyss, both German states should press for compliance with the existing arms control agreements and refrain, for their part, from any actions that might generate another round in the arms race."

POLISH SEJM ISSUES RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

LD302241 Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Warsaw, January 30 TASS -- The Sejm (Parliament) of the Polish People's Republic welcomes the programme of totally liquidating nuclear and chemical arms by the year 2000, outlined in the statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev. This is said in a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Polish Parliament and published here today.

Having studied questions of the international situation and the main tasks of Poland's foreign policy, the Sejm stressed the historic importance of the Soviet proposals and fully supported them. The resolution voices profound hope that this important Soviet action will herald a new landmark in international efforts to achieve nuclear detente, safeguard peace and jointly solve the problems of our time. The Polish Sejm shares the alarm of broad sections of the world public over the activity of the West's military-industrial complexes which want a further development of nuclear and conventional armaments and an extension of the arms race into outer space. The implementation of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" is fraught with a destabilisation of international relations and the beginning of a new stage in the arms race, it is said in the resolution of the Sejm of the Polish People's Republic.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS ON TOLKUNOV MEETINGS IN PARIS

PM290955 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Disarmament: The Common Task"]

[Text] Paris, 23 Jan -- The delegation of the USSR parliamentary group headed by L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union and chairman of the USSR parliamentary group, which is here at the invitation of the French Senate's Franco-Soviet friendship group, has had meetings and talks with French parliamentarians.

In particular, the Soviet delegation had talks with L. Mermaz, speaker of the French National Assembly and A. Poher, speaker of the Senate.

During the meeting with L. Mermaz, L.N. Tolkunov dwelt in detail on the new Soviet peace initiatives, aimed at eliminating nuclear arms, which are set forth in recent statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The speaker of the French National Assembly gave a positive assessment of the Soviet Union's proposals put forward in this document.

The sides also exchanged opinions on questions concerning bilateral interparliamentary ties and Franco-Soviet relations. In this context it was noted that the official visit by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, gave new impetus to the development of the two countries' relations.

In a talk with the Soviet delegation, A. Poher stressed that the two countries' parliamentarians could make a substantial contribution to the development of Franco-Soviet relations. He also noted that M.S. Gorbachev's visit to France confirmed that a real possibility of continuing dialogue between the two countries now exists.

A. Poher expressed the opinion that all countries should participate in the resolution of such important international problems as the prevention of nuclear war, which could lead to mankind's destruction.

A. Poher gave a dinner in honor of the delegation of Soviet parliamentarians.

Speaking at the dinner, L.N. Tolkunov noted that meetings between the two countries' parliamentarians have become an integral, useful part of the broad political dialogue between France and the USSR.

Touching on the international situation, the head of the Soviet delegation noted that the main problem today remains that of ending the arms race, and since recently of preventing its spread into space. He pointed to the need to overcome the negative, confrontational trends in the world, which have increased in recent years, and to clear the way for the curtailment of the nuclear arms race on earth and its prevention in space, the general reduction of the danger of war, and the establishment of trust as an essential component in relations between states.

It is this, he went on, which is the purport of the Soviet Union's recent peace initiatives and its foreign policy actions, including the summit meetings in Paris and Geneva. The Soviet Union appeals to all peoples and states, first and foremost nuclear states, to support the program for eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2000. It is quite obvious to any unprejudiced person that nobody will lose from the implementation of this program, but everyone will gain. It is a question of a problem of significance to all mankind, and it can and must be resolved only together, and the sooner the better.

Soviet parliamentarians, the head of the Soviet delegation went on, see it as their task to work toward these goals together with the parliamentarians of other countries, including France.

Touching on Franco-Soviet relations, he also noted that Soviet parliamentarians, like all the Soviet people and the Soviet leadership, advocate the all-around development and strengthen of Soviet-French cooperation in various spheres. We would like political dialogue between the USSR and France to be a constant factor for strengthening European security and stabilizing international relations in general.

The Soviet delegation also had a working meeting with the French Senate Franco-Soviet friendship group, at which the sides discussed a wide range of problems of ensuring security on the European Continent and continuing the process of relaxation of international tension.

The session examined the new Soviet peace program.

The participants in the meeting drew attention to the serious danger involved in the transfer of the arms race to outer space. They also analyzed various aspects of Soviet-French relations.

J. Chaumont, chairman of the Senate Franco-Soviet friendship group, and Yu. M. Vorontsov, USSR ambassador to France, took part in the Soviet and French parliamentarians' conversations and meetings.

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN CRITICIZED ON REMARKS

LD302101 Moscow International Service in Swedish 1900 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] The new U.S. ambassador to Sweden, Gregory Newell, explained in an interview to the Swedish news agency. TT that the submarine violations of Swedish territorial waters raise a question which has not yet been answered: What are the objectives of the Soviet Union? Here is Oleg Okulovskiy:

Good evening. First, one can take it for granted that Mr Newell has not read the latest reports by the Swedish commander in chief. The report is on possible submarine violations of Swedish waters, but at the same time it is clear from the report that there are no signs which would show the nationality of the submarines. In addition, Swedish statesmen, for example, the minister of defense and the minister of foreign affairs, have pointed this out several times. Are these adjustments perhaps quite simply totally unknown to the ambassador? I think that he is well informed about them even though he is a new man in Scandinavia.

These judgements and general knowledge of the real state of affairs in Sweden after the submarine fever probably urged Gregory Newell to give the above mentioned and degrading statement in the TT interview.

Washington is not interested in the possibility of Sweden being cured of its periscope sickness for good. This sickness has long made it possible to release an anti-Soviet fuss in the press of the neutral country. At the same time it has forced Sweden increasingly closer to NATO and above all closer to the military policy of the Pentagon.

However, today there are clear signs that the periscope sickness is declining in Sweden, which presumably has caused concern in the Pentagon. So Mr Newell is not allowed to do anything but stimulate this sickness and bring it back to the clearly anti-Soviet form.

COMPARISON OF REPORTS ON ITALIAN PARTY LEADER VISIT

Gorbachev-Natta Meeting

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 30 January in its First Edition carries on the front page a TASS report, minus the dateline, under the headline "M.S. Gorbachev's Meeting With A. Natta" which has been compared with the Moscow TASS English version published on page G 1 of the 29 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT revealing the following variations:

In paragraph four, line one, PRAVDA reads: ...was stressed that the large-scale complex of peace-loving initiatives put forward... (rewording);

In paragraph six, line two, PRAVDA reads: ...of outer space, to aim for specific results along the path of balanced and verifiable reduction of nuclear... (rewording);

In paragraph seven, line three, PRAVDA reads: ...further deployment and gradual dismantling of the deployed... (rewording);

In paragraph nine, line one, PRAVDA reads: ...that the further activation and development of... (substituting "activation" for "intensification");

In the penultimate paragraph, line three, PRAVDA reads: ...political positions and program tenets which are to... (substituting "program tenets" for "policy guidelines");

In line six of the same paragraph, PRAVDA has "tenets" instead of "guidelines."

Gorbachev Dinner Speech

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 30 January in its First Edition carries on page 2 a TASS report on General Secretary Gorbachev's dinner speech under the headline "In Honor of the Italian Communist Party Delegation" and the subhead "Speech by M.S. Gorbachev." The PRAVDA article has been compared with the Moscow TASS English version published on pages G 2-6 of the 29 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, and aside from omitting the first three paragraphs, reveals the following variations:

On page G 3, paragraph four, penultimate line, PRAVDA reads: ...is petty and imposed from outside, as an important... (rewording);

In paragraph eight, line two, PRAVDA reads: ...small number of enemies, of opponents of disarmament... (inserting "enemies, of");

On page G 4, first paragraph, antepenultimate line, PRAVDA reads: ...nuclear war, even supposing that no one... (substituting "supposing" for "provided");

In paragraph two, last line, PRAVDA reads: ...like to touch briefly upon only two... (inserting "briefly");

In the last paragraph on page G 4, penultimate line, PRAVDA reads: ...much too dearly -- even irreparably so -- not only to... (inserting additional clause);

On page G 5, first paragraph, first line, PRAVDA reads: ...Soviet Union is a principled and implacable opponent of the "star wars"... (rewording);

In paragraph two, line four, PRAVDA reads: ...left-wing forces have at times much wider areas...(inserting "at times");

In paragraph five, lines two and six, PRAVDA has "teaching" instead of "doctrine";

On page G 6, paragraph two, penultimate line, PRAVDA reads: ...for that dialogue developing and assuming forms...(substituting "developing" for "growing:");

In the last paragraph, from line two, PRAVDA reads: ...wish you, the Italian Communist Party leadership, and the fraternal Italian party successes in the struggle... (rewording).

BRIEFS

UK DATA BASE AGREEMENT -- London, 28 Jan (TASS) -- An agreement envisaging distribution of TASS information by the data base of the British firm Datasolve has been signed here today. For the first time, several thousand subscribers abroad have got, with the aid of electronics, access to the full texts of the Soviet agency's reports. There is already material about the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva, the new initiatives of the USSR on restricting the arms race and disarmament, and other documents in the data base. The information is being distributed in Western Europe as well as in Australia and several other countries. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1558 GMT 28 Jan 86 LD]

SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTED GOING TO YAR

NC311142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA) -- Egyptian authorities have granted a request from the Soviet Embassy to allow a private plane flying the Soviet first deputy foreign minister from Larnaca, Cyprus, to Sanaa, YAR, to cross Egyptian airspace this morning.

SOVIET, YAR COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED

LD301746 Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 30 TASS -- The first session of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation and also on trade between [words indistinct] the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) has been (?an important step in the) further development and broadening of (?trade) and economic relations (?between) the Soviet Union and the Yemen Arab Republic.

At the session which closed here today, the Soviet delegation was led by Yevgeniy Osadchuk, vice-chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, the delegation of the Yemen Arab Republic -- by Muhammad Sayid al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of development. A protocol has been signed on the results of the work of the commission.

The protocol says among other things that economic ties between the two countries develop successfully. Thus, for example, the work to draw up a chart for the use of water resources of the Sanaa River carried out with the participation of Soviet experts is continuing. These documents are to be turned over to organisations of the Yemen Arab Republic in autumn this year.

Agreement has been reached on cooperation of the sides in the study of the possibility to use the water resources in Anisa Basin, in carrying out projecting and prospecting work for the construction of three small irrigation dams in Anisa [spelling as received] and Sanaa basins.

The Soviet side has reaffirmed its preparedness to cooperate with the Yemen organisations in the construction of an irrigation dam in Harad area and also in the construction of motor (?roads.) The point at issue are the al-'Udayn-Jarahi [spelling as received] 15-km road.

On top of that, [word indistinct] have been outlined for the modernization of cement works in Bajil, which was built earlier with the USSR's technology is to be used at that works with an output capacity of 250,000 tons of cement a year.

PDRY OFFICIALS NOTE YSP POLICY 'UNCHANGED'

LD311143 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Aden, January 31 TASS -- TASS correspondents V. Zhadayev and A. Semin reporting.

According to Radio Aden, Salim Salih Muhammad, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), received accredited representatives of national-liberation movements of Arab countries.

He expressed gratitude to the movements for the solidarity with and support for the progressive regime for the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (P.D.R.Y.). The policy recorded in the YSP Program and the YSP rules in domestic affairs as well as on the Arab and international scene remains unchanged, Salim Salih Muhammad stressed. Imperialism and Zionism will not manage to topple the progressive regime in Democratic Yemen or to steer it away from the road of socialist orientation chosen by it.

The radio broadcast the text of a statement made by 'Ali Salim al-Dayd, a member of the political bureau of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party, at a meeting with representatives of local news organizations. He stressed that the YSP would follow the course of socialist orientation. The P.D.R.Y. will build its relations with the countries of the region on the principles of cooperation and good-neighborliness, strengthen relations with the Soviet Union and other friendly socialist countries, 'Ali Salim al-Dayd said.

There are indications everywhere in the capital of the P.D.R.Y. that the city is returning to normal life. Stores and workshops are re-opening. Filling stations are working. State institutions return to their usual activities. Highways have opened to traffic. Work is under way to restore power supply lines. Water is coming to practically all districts. The port of Aden has re-opened to foreign ships. The South Yemeni airline has resumed domestic and international flights. According to Radio Aden, authorities permitted foreign newsmen to visit Abyan Province where the situation had stabilized in recent day.

SOVIET SPOKESMAN CONFIRMS TEHRAN VISIT

LD302057 Kuwait KUNA in English 2020 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, Jan 30 (KUNA) -- A ranking Soviet Foreign Ministry official confirmed Thursday [30 January] reports about a visit by a Soviet delegation to Tehran scheduled for early February. Deputy Director of the Press Department of the Foreign Ministry, Valeriy Sokhin told KUNA that First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Korniyenko was assigned to lead the Soviet delegation to Tehran for talks dealing with bilateral relations and regional issues of mutual interest.

The official cautioned at the same time against exaggerated expectations, saying "It is a routine visit within the framework of exchange of friendly visits between Iran and the Soviet Union". He added that the visit is at an official invitation by the Iranian Foreign Ministry extended more than one year ago.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, Sokhin indicated that this issue "might" be discussed during the delegation's visit to Tehran. Observers here believe that the Soviet delegation's visit to Tehran has to do mainly with ways of ending the Iraqi-Iran war as well as improving Soviet-Iranian relations which witnessed tension especially during the past year because of the extensive media campaign launched in Moscow against the Iranian obstinacy in continuing the Gulf conflict.

U.S. MOVES AGAINST LIBYA CRITICIZED BY ARAB LEAGUE

Arab League Meets

LD302141 Moscow TASS in English 2011 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Tunis, January 30 TASS -- A special session of the Arab League Council of Ministers has opened here today.

It was convened on Libya's demand in connection with Washington's escalating military provocations against that sovereign state. Addressing the session, the league's Secretary General Klibi stated that a dangerous situation in the region has been created by the American Administration's military threats that are accompanied by an anti-Libyan political campaign and economic sanctions. Klibi called on the Arab countries to show unity and solidarity in face of the American-Israeli pressure.

Resolution Denounces 'Military Threats'

LD310850 Moscow TASS in English 0840 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Tunis, January 31 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Igor Bereznikovskiy: The League of Arab States, LAS, has denounced Washington's military threats and economic boycott against Libya, say resolutions of an emergency meeting of the LAS Council of Ministers, distributed here. The influential Arab organization expressed its solidarity with Libya, and warned the United States against threatening the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, a sovereign Arab state, with aggression. The LAS Council recommended that Arab states ask the U.N. Security Council to consider the issue of U.S. threats against Libya.

Klibi Condemns U.S. Threat

LD281847 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 28 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] The Afro-Arab Cooperation Commission met in Damascus. Participants in the meeting sharply condemned the anti-Libyan campaign of blackmail and threats unleashed by the United States:

[Begin recording of Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League; in Arabic fading to Russian translation] Libya has become subject to the aggressive policy of the United States primarily because of its consistent anti-imperialist policy and its refusal to accede to separate deals on a Middle East settlement, which Washington and Tel Aviv are imposing on the Arabs. The allegation that Libya has become a stronghold of terrorism and presents a threat to the security of the United States is groundless. We condemn economic sanctions and provocative military preparations by Washington against Libya. The aggressive policy of the United States presents a serious threat to peace in the Mediterranean and throughout the world. [end recording]

GEYVANDOV EXPLAINS SOVIET STANDS IN MIDEAST

JN260938 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jan 86 p 15

[By Therese Haddad]

[Text] Amman -- Konstantin Geyvandov, senior political commentator in IZVESTIYA, organ of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has stated that Moscow is eager to promote cooperation with Jordan and that relations between the two countries call for admiration and pride. In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B during his current visit to Jordan at the head of a Soviet press delegation, Geyvandov said that the Soviet Union hopes Arab countries will settle their differences and that serious efforts will be exerted to end these differences in the Arab peoples' interests.

Geyvandov stressed that the Middle East problem is a main and constant source of interest for the Soviet Union. In this respect, he pointed out several proposals Moscow has submitted for a just and comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the region, proposals which are close to the Arab stand, particularly the Arab initiative issued by the Fes summit. He affirmed that no solution to the Middle East cause can be attained without a united Arab stand and an Arab consensus. The Arabs, if united, constitute an influential force, he said.

Geyvandov said that two major points must be taken into consideration in a settlement in the region: the liberation of all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to establish their independent state on their soil. He added that these two points are the basis for a peaceful settlement and that the Soviet Union is working with all friends to promote such a concept and achieve it.

On an international peace conference, Geyvandov said that there is more than one concept on this conference. Moscow believes that this conference must be attended by all parties concerned with the conflict, as well as the two superpowers. He also emphasized the importance of participation by Jordan and the PLO through independent delegations for each of them.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, Geyvandov said the Soviet Union has, from the beginning, expressed its opposition to this destructive war, which brings only losses to the two parties and which is not in the interest of any party in the region. He added that the Iraqi-Iranian war weakens the Arabs and moves them away from the Palestinian cause, the basic cause of conflict in the region. He added that Moscow calls on the two sides to end this war and hold a peaceful dialogue.

On the recent events in the PDRY, the Soviet guest said that these events came as a shock to the Soviet Union. They are part of U.S. and Israeli attempts to create problems in the Arab arena, as shown by the Lebanese cause, the Gulf war, and constant Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people, their land, and their holy places. He said that these attempts seek to obstruct the peace process in the Middle East. That's why what took place in Aden is part of this trend.

Geyvandov said that the conflict in Aden is a domestic issue among Yemeni factions and that the Soviet Union opposes any interference by anyone in PDRY domestic affairs. He also emphasized that Moscow is determined to pursue close cooperation with the government in Aden.

Geyvandov condemned U.S. measures against Libya and said that the Soviet Union supports Libya and condemns the anti-Libyan U.S. campaign.

On the recent Reagan-Gorbachev summit, Geyvandov said that this summit is important for many reasons, chief among which is attenuation of tension which has prevailed between the United States and the Soviet Union over the past years. The Soviet people and Government are confident that this summit is a continuation of the dialogue between two superpowers and is a change from the stand of confrontation to that of dialogue and negotiation in all fields. The agreements reached in the Geneva summit are important because they enable the two parties to move from the position of confrontation and challenge to that of dialogue within the framework of peaceful coexistence among countries that have different social, economic, and political systems. Geyvandov said: I believe that this summit will contribute to settling affairs.

USSR-ANGOLAN-CUBAN CONSULTATIONS HELD IN MOSCOW

Press Briefed

LD301642 Moscow TASS in English 1532 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 30 TASS -- A briefing held for Soviet and foreign journalists at the Press Center of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR here today dealt with Soviet-Angolan-Cuban consultations which took place in Moscow on January 27.

Speaking at the briefing, Yuriy Yukalov, head of the ministry's Second African Department, said the tripartite meeting paid prime attention to discussing the situation in southern Africa. Among other things, it considered the possible development of the situation around Angola following increases in U.S. aid to UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

The Soviet Union and Cuba, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the USSR said, reaffirmed their solidarity with the struggle by the Angolan people and their treaty-based commitments to Angola.

It was pointed out that efforts to achieve a Namibian settlement have come into a deadlock through the fault of Pretoria and Washington. The participants in the consultations rejected attempts to "link" a Namibian settlement with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as aiming to solve the Namibia problem in a neo-colonialist manner and change the social and political system in Angola. The Namibian issue can only be settled through unconditional compliance with corresponding U.N. decisions, including the Security Council's Resolution 435.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry's spokesman stressed that Angola unswervingly abides by its commitments under the Lusaka accords. The platform now being put forward by the Angolan Government and the good will of the Angolan leadership attest to the desire of people's Angola for a just settlement of the conflict in the region and for a fair and constructive dialogue with a view to ensuring peace and stability in the south of Africa.

IZVESTIYA Reports Consultations

PM301721 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "On Soviet-Angolan-Cuban Consultations"]

[Text] Soviet-Angolan-Cuban consultations were held in Moscow 27 January to discuss several topical international problems and above all the situation in southern Africa.

In assessing the international situation the sides stressed that to ensure a breakthrough for the better in its development special importance would attach to the implementation of the Soviet Union's package of new peace initiatives addressed to the United States, the other nuclear powers, and all peoples of the world set out in the 15 January statement of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

It was noted that the fulfillment of the Soviet program for the complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons and measures to halt the arms race on earth and prevent it in outer space and other proposals would ensure a shift away from confrontation and toward international detente and the consolidation of peace and would help to create conditions for eliminating seats of tension in various parts of the world.

Here the sides drew attention to the fact that the new Soviet proposals are based on the principle of identical security for all. They do not encroach on anyone's interests and they are of a mutually advantageous nature.

Those taking part in the consultations resolutely opposed the fact that the implementation of measures in the disarmament field has been made dependent on so-called regional conflicts and they opposed their use in accordance with the U.S. concept of "new globalism" for interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states and fuelling confrontation between East and West.

At the same time it was emphasized that the conflicts arising in various parts of the world contain the threat of developing into a universal war and that it is important therefore to seek to eliminate them by collective efforts on the basis of fair principles through negotiations while completely respecting the peoples' independence and right to self-determination.

Special attention was paid to the all-round examination of the situation in southern Africa, where, through the fault of the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa, which enjoys the support of imperialism and primarily of the United States, a seat of acute international tension has arisen and continues to exist. It was noted that since the last trilateral consultations (March 1985) the situation in this part of the world has not improved. On the contrary, having encountered the growth of the resistance of the majority of the population of the Republic of South Africa to the inhumane apartheid system and the expansion of the Namibian people's struggle for their liberation the Pretoria racist regime has launched bloody acts of repression within South Africa itself and galvanized its aggressive actions against neighboring independent African states.

By means of unceasing acts of aggression against sovereign Angola and direct participation on the side of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] puppet grouping, the South African racists, with the United States' connivance are trying ultimately to achieve the elimination of the progressive system in Angola and to foist on that country the status of a vassal of the Republic of South Africa and world capital. The United States is pursuing a policy of "constructive engagement" with the regime of apartheid -- a policy which is denounced not only by the international community but also by broad circles of the progressive public in the United States itself.

The consultations examined the possible development of the situation surrounding Angola in connection with the overt support and increased aid to UNITA from the U.S. Administration, which is evidence of direct interference in sovereign Angola's internal affairs. Observing their treaty commitments and in accordance with the well-known resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council in September-October 1985, the Soviet Union and Cuba advocate the resolute halting of the aggressive encroachments on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola. They confirmed their solidarity with the Angolan people's continuing selfless struggle in defense of their independent political choice.

The Angolan side thanked the USSR and Cuba for the international aid rendered to the People's Republic of Angola in repelling foreign aggression.

The sides confirmed that the seat of tension existing in southern Africa must be eliminated by political means, under conditions of the total renunciation of the policy of state terrorism and interference in the internal affairs of the states of this region. A large role in this process belongs to the United Nations and to the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement.

It was emphasized that the real normalization of the situation and the attainment of peace in southern Africa can be ensured only if the Republic of South Africa and the states which support it, primarily the United States, are prepared to consider the interests of Angola and the Namibian people, for whom the Southwest African People's Organization [SWAPO] is the sole and legitimate representative.

The USSR, Angola, and Cuba resolutely denounce the attempts of the Republic of South Africa to legitimize its colonial dominion in Namibia by creating a puppet government in that country. They believe that it is urgently necessary to continue to seek real headway in resolving the Namibian question through the unconditional fulfillment of the appropriate UN resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution No 435, which are the sole internationally recognized basis for its settlement.

The sides also expressed their invariable support for the just struggle of the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) for the elimination of the hated regime of apartheid, and their total solidarity with the demand of that heroic organization to lift the state of emergency, immediately free Nelson Mandela and all political detainees, halt the so-called treason trials and all trials of antiapartheid fighters, stop the victimization of Winnie Mandela and other patriots, lift the ban on the ANC's activity, and remove troops and police from the black townships.

The platform put forward by the Angolan government in September 1984 and the subsequent additions to it, which were universally recognized, remain the just basis for achieving an all-embracing agreement which would ensure Namibia's independence and security and peace in southeast Africa. The good will of the Angolan government and its readiness to settle the conflict in the region and to hold dialogue on a constructive and honest basis with a view to ensuring peace and stability in southern Africa found its confirmation again in the 8 January and also the 23 January 1986 statements by Angolan President J.E. Dos Santos. These statements say that as long as the regime of apartheid exists in South Africa, there still exists a danger for Angola and the other independent states of southern Africa.

The sides noted the timeliness and usefulness of the Moscow Soviet-Angolan-Cuban consultations for further coordinating the three countries' actions in defense of the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Angola and achieving a just and honest settlement in southern Africa.

The exchange of opinions was held in a friendly and comradely atmosphere and in a spirit of complete mutual understanding.

Taking part in the consultations were: On the Soviet side -- E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; B.N. Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; O.B. Rakhmanin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy defense minister; L.F. Ilichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR deputy foreign minister; R.A. Ulyanovskiy, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section; and A.I. Kalinin, USSR ambassador to Angola.

On the Angolan side -- P. Maria Tonha [Pedale], member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Politburo and Angolan Defense Minister; M. Alexandre Rodrigues (Quito), member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Politburo and Angolan minister of the interior; L. Ferreira do Nascimento, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and Angolan minister of planning; P. Benga Lim Foguetao, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and chief of the Angolan general staff operations directorate; and Henrique Teles Carriera, candidate member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and commander of the Angolan Air Force and Air Defense.

On the Cuban side -- J. Riaquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee; L. Soto, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat and Cuban ambassador to the USSR; O. Rosales del Oro, chief of the Cuban revolutionary Armed Forces General Staff; R. Puentes Ferro, candidate member of the PCC Central Committee and Cuban ambassador to Angola; and A. Hidalgo, senior official on the PCC Central Committee apparatus.

Havana TV Reports 'Communique'

FL301954 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] On 27 January 1986, conversations between the USSR, Angola, and Cuba were held in Moscow. These conversations dealt with certain international problems, especially that of the situation in southern Africa. We now offer you the tripartite communique issued after the meeting.

The parties stressed the fact that, to guarantee a substantial improvement in the international situation, it would be of decisive importance to carry out all the peace initiatives of the USSR directed at the United States, the other nuclear powers, and all the peoples of the world, and formulated by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the Central Committee of the CPSU in his declaration of 15 January last.

It is pointed out that the adoption of the Soviet program for the complete destruction of all nuclear weapons, of the measures to reverse the arms race on earth and prevent it in space, and other proposals, would guarantee a change from the present confrontation to international detente, and would contribute to the creation of conditions to eliminate hot spots in different regions of the world, and to the strengthening of peace.

At the same time, the parties stressed the fact that the new Soviet proposals are based on the principal of identical security for all, do not harm any nation's interests, and are mutually beneficial. The participants in the meeting stated their firm opposition to making the carrying out of world disarmament depend on so-called regional conflicts, and to using regional conflicts -- in accordance with the United States' new globalism concept -- to interfere in sovereign states and worsen the East-West confrontation.

Simultaneously, the parties emphasized the fact that the conflicts in various regions of the world threaten to cause global war, for which reason it is important to try to eliminate them through collective efforts, and through negotiations based on justice, and with absolute respect for the independence and right to self-determination of the peoples.

Special attention was given to the examination of the situation in southern Africa, where the racist South African regime, supported by imperialism, with the United States in first place, [as heard] has created and maintains a hot spot of grave international tension. It was noted that, during the time that has passed since the last tripartite consultations held in March 1985, the situation in that region of the world has not improved.

Quite the opposite. Confronting the growing opposition of most of the population in South Africa to the inhuman system of apartheid, and the intensification of the struggle of the Namibian people for its [words indistinct], the racist Pretoria regime has carried out bloody repressive measures in its own country and has intensified its aggressive acts against the neighboring independent states.

With the complicity of the United States in constant acts of aggression against the sovereign state of Angola, including direct action in support of the puppet National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] group, the South African racists pursue the sinister goal of eliminating the progressive regime and converting this country into a vassal of South Africa and of international capital.

The United States is continuing its policy of constructive engagement with the apartheid regime, condemned not only by the international community but also by large portions of progressive U.S. public opinion.

During the conversations, the possible evolution of the Angolan situation was studied in the light of the proposal of the U.S. Administration to provide help to the UNITA, which would constitute an act of open interference in the internal matters of sovereign Angola. Complying with the obligations contained in existing agreements, and in accordance with the resolutions approved in September and October 1985 by the UN Security Council, the USSR and Cuba call for a complete end to the aggressions against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola, and reiterate their solidarity with the prolonged and unselfish struggle of the Angolan people in defense of their independent political option. The Angolan side manifested its gratitude to USSR and Cuba for the internationalist aid they give the People's Republic of Angola to throw back the foreign aggression.

The parties ratified the fact that the hot spot that exists in the cone of southern Africa must be liquidated by political means, with complete renunciation of the policy of state terrorism and of intervention in the internal affairs of the nations of the area.

In this process, the United Nations plays an important part, as do the Organization of African Unity and the nonaligned countries movement. It was stressed that correcting this situation and achieving peace in this African region can be guaranteed only if the Republic of South Africa and the governments that support it -- principally the United States -- are willing to take into consideration the interests of Angola and of the people of Namibia, whose sole legitimate representative is the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO].

The USSR, Angola, and Cuba emphatically condemn South Africa's attempt to legalize its colonial domination over Namibia through a puppet government. They consider continued efforts are urgently needed aimed at achieving real progress in the solution of the Namibian problem through the unconditional implementation of the 1978 UN Security Council Resolution No 435 and other UN agreements which represent the only internationally recognized basis for its solution.

Likewise, they expressed their unvariable support to the fair struggle of the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress, ANC, for the dismantling of the disgraceful apartheid regime and their total solidarity with the demands of this heroic organization to lift the state of emergency, the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, all political prisoners, the elimination of the so-called treason trials and other political actions against the anti-apartheid fighters, the cease of repression against Winnie Mandela and other patriots, an end of the ban of the ANC and the withdrawal of the army and police from black townships.

The Platform proposed by the Government of the People's Republic of Angola in September of 1984 and the subsequent additions to it, which are universally recognized, continue being a fair foundation in achieving a total agreement which would guarantee Namibia's independence, peace and security in southwestern Africa.

The Angolan Government's goodwill and readiness to solve conflict in the region by establishing a dialogue based on a constructive and honorable foundation aimed at achieving peace and stability in southwestern Africa were once more reasserted in the statements in Angolan People's Republic's President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos made on 8 and 23 January. These statements indicate that as long as the apartheid regime exists in South Africa, it will constitute a serious threat to Angola and the rest of the southern African independent countries.

The parties underscored that the Soviet-Angolan-Cuban talks held in Moscow to continue coordinating the actions of the three countries in defense of the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Angola and for a fair and equal settlement in southern Africa, were opportune and useful.

The exchange of views was held in a friendly, fraternal atmosphere of complete understanding. Taking part in the consultations were, on the Soviet side, Eduard Shevardnadze, CPSU Politburo member and foreign minister. Boris Ponomarev, candidate Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Marshal of the Soviet Union [MSU] Sergey Sokolov, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and USSR defense minister, Oleg Rakhmanin, CPSU Central Committee member and first deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department, MSU Sergey Akhromeyev, first deputy defense minister of the USSR and chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces; L.H. Ilichev, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and USSR deputy foreign minister; R. Ulyanovskiy, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section, and A. Kalinin, USSR ambassador to Angola.

For the Angolan side were: Jose Maria Tonha (Pedale), member of the MPLA-Labor Party and Angolan defense minister; Alexandre Rodriguez (Guito), member of the MPLA-Labor Party and Angolan interior minister; (Lopo) Do Nascimento, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and Angolan minister of planning; Pedro Benga Lim Foguetao, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and chief of the Angolan General Staff Operations Directorate; and Henrique Teles Carriera, candidate member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and Commander of the Angolan Air Force and Air Defense.

On the Cuban side were: Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]; Lionel Soto, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat; Division General Ulises Rosales Del Toro, first deputy minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, chief of the General Staff, and PCC Central Committee member; Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, PCC Central Committee alternate member and ambassador to Angola; and Alcibiades Hidalgo, senior official of the PCC Central Committee.

ANGOLAN MINISTER SIGNS TRADE DOCUMENTS

LD302123 Moscow TASS in English 1906 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 20 TASS -- Talks conducted here by the Minister of Planning of the People's Republic of Angola Lopo Do Nascimento have become a new step in further developing equal trade and economic ties between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Angola.

He signed a number of bilateral documents, in particular on greater cooperation in the joint construction of economic projects.

Under these documents, a TASS correspondent learned at the USSR State Committee for External Economic Ties, it is intended for organisations of the two countries to build a meat packing plant in Angola, to set up and equip several machine and tractor stations and other economic projects and to draw up a masterplan of developing the petrochemical industry in Angola.

Agreement has also been reached on various deliveries from the USSR to Angola, in particular to transport means and medicines for a hospital in Lubango.

REPORTAGE ON MUSEVENI LEADERSHIP IN UGANDA

New Administration Envisioned

PM281145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Events in Uganda"]

[Text] Nairobi, 27 Jan -- The Military Council and government which held power in Uganda are declared disbanded. Yoweri Museveni, head of the National Resistance Army, says in an address broadcast on radio. A National Resistance Council has been created to govern the country.

In the near future, he announced, a new, broadly based administration will be formed in Uganda and will include both the military and civilians. Its creation is to be preceded by dialogue between the National Resistance Army and other internal political groupings, including groupings from within the Military Council.

Museveni Sworn In

LD291416 Moscow TASS in English 1149 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Kampala, January 29 TASS -- The head of the National Resistance Movement and the National Resistance Army of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, today was sworn in as president of this East African country.

Speaking before foreign diplomats and journalists here, he said the new leadership of Uganda intended to pursue a policy of non-alignment and develop good relations with all states, with the exception of South Africa and Israel. The national resistance movement was going to launch a program for national reconstruction to solve the country's more pressing financial and economic problems. Museveni urged all military-political groupings in Uganda to pool their efforts to build a new life.

'Fundamental Changes' Beginning

LD301809 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Kampala January 30 TASS -- Unity, democracy and stability are the aims of Uganda's new leadership, said President of the Republic Yoweri Museveni, speaking here after the inauguration ceremony. He stressed that the advent to power of the National Resistance Movement signified the beginning of fundamental changes in the life of the country.

Our government, said the President, will be firmly opposing the attempts to divide the Ugandans on tribal or religious grounds. The National Resistance Movement affiliates representatives of different peoples and strata of the population, and exactly this makes it strong. We are planning to form in the country a broad network of local self-government bodies elected democratically at all administrative levels. Their priority tasks will be to control activities of state power, to cut short abuses, to maintain public order. The local bodies will be entrusted to select the personnel of the new National Army.

The National Resistance Movement, said the President, believes that it is the inalienable and legitimate right of the people of Uganda to have a democratic government. Power in its entirety should belong to the people, and the government is called upon to fulfil its will.

ANC BLOWS TO RSA REGIME, CROCKER VISIT DISCUSSED

MD281502 Moscow in Zulu to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Oleg Lavrukhin commentary]

[Text] In South Africa, anti-apartheid demonstrations continue unabated. The authorities are trying to suppress the protestors by brute force. Bloodshed has become a regular feature. Other reports from South Africa say the management of Randfontein gold mine, located in the West Rand, has dismissed 800 mineworkers for allegedly participating in an underground miners' strike last week. The strike, sponsored and supported by labor unions, led to a confrontation between the workers and SADF and SAP troops. The security forces opened fire on the miners. A total of 8 people died and 40 others were seriously injured. Concerning the demands of African miners, workers in the Durban and Cape Town suburbs, and other significant areas heavily populated with African workers, Oleg Lavrukhin, our news analyst, has some comments to make.

The impatience, disgust, and protest of Africans in South Africa is prompted by their disillusionment with apartheid in that country. Meanwhile, the blows being inflicted by Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation], the ANC's military wing, are escalating rapidly. In the Durban area in the past few days, Umkhonto we Sizwe bombed an electrical substation and also attacked prominent government targets. How have the racists responded to the challenge and protest that has been going on relentlessly for the past 16 months? The racists are headstrong in applying barbaric and vulgar methods of suppression. According to ANC statistics, 1,500 persons have been killed by SAP and SADF contingents in the past 18 months.

Meanwhile, it has been revealed that President Pieter Botha's address to parliament on 31 January will contain some new measures on reform. It has become a common occurrence that such optimistic reports are circulated whenever Chester Crocker, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, has visited South Africa. It is quite clear that Chester Crocker is still determined to connive with apartheid. He is intent on creating confusion within the ranks of those fighting against apartheid. Presently, Mr Crocker is busy with research on how to spare the apartheid regime for complete destruction.

Despite the call by the United Nations for voluntary economic and political sanctions against South Africa, there are still some elements bent on retaining ties with the notorious apartheid regime, a government that has been convicted of heinous crimes by all mankind.

'REALISM, CONFIDENCE' DESCRIBE NICARAGUAN ATTITUDES

PM301051 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Second and final part of report by A. Bovin: "Nicaragua in Struggle"]

[Text] For several years now, the United States has been increasing its military, political, economic, and psychological pressure on Nicaragua. The aim Washington has set itself is to surround and isolate Nicaragua, disrupt the normal course of life within the country, set its neighbors against it, and provoke a critical aggravation of the situation both within the country and around it. It was precisely the United States that constantly impeded the Contadora process and ultimately froze it, because it determinedly refused to pledge to cease aggressive actions against Nicaragua.

In isolating Nicaragua it has failed. Rather the reverse is true: U.S. policy is meeting with growing incomprehension and condemnation throughout the world, the part of U.S. allies. But instead of stopping to think and heeding the sensible voices heard even in the United States itself, the administration has taken the bit between its teeth.

So that readers can feel the intensity of Washington's passions and appreciate the level of political argumentation with which the White House operates, I will cite several pronouncements by the U.S. President.

Regarding the leaders of the country with which the United States maintains diplomatic relations: "...These people are no more than murderers -- a band of inveterate communists." A refined political vocabulary, is it not?

Regarding the reasons for the U.S. "profound concern," it would appear that the United States is troubled by "...the specter of Nicaragua developing into an aggressor country in the international arena, into a base for subversive activity and terror." In actual fact, the bashful Americans did not complete their mining of Nicaraguan ports. There was an uproar and they became uncomfortable...But the Nicaraguans will not be shy, any day now they will lay mines (Soviet- or Cuban-produced, of course) along the Pacific and Atlantic U.S. coast and even in the Potomac.

Regarding the Soviet Union and Cuba: "The hand of the Soviet Union and its puppet Cuba can be perceived among others in the actions of terrorist movements such as "M-19" in Colombia, Alfaro L6ves! in Ecuador, and, of course, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador. It (the hand, that is, -- A.B.) is also apparent in the subversive activities of the Nicaraguan Government against its democratic neighbors. And the connection between the governments of Soviet allies, such as Cuba and Nicaragua, and the international drug trade and terrorism is becoming increasingly clear each time. Well really, you can take it or leave it [khot stoy, khot paday], as they say....

No, it is not the "hand of Moscow" and not the "hand of Havana," but precisely the hand of Washington which has held Latin America in its mortal grip for one and a half centuries now and which has tended and cared for several generations of Latin American dictators and, with their blessing (or even without their blessing), shamelessly robbed the continent. Precisely this hand, the hand of Washington, pushes people into the struggle for humane conditions of existence.

And the "drug trade"? The whole world knows what role is played by the United States in the world drug trade. And the United States knows.

But the political enemy must be defamed and slandered at all costs: Without putting too fine a point on it, without using kid gloves, --Nicaragua and Cuba (and behind them -- the Soviet Union) are not only terrorizing poor Americans, but are even poisoning them with drugs....

It is useless to argue. It is a hopeless case. But the question can be raised: What is the reason for such an inadequate, almost hysterical perception of events in Nicaragua? Washington, which so values force, cannot fail to understand that neither Nicaragua nor Cuba is in a position to undermine U.S. security in the foreseeable future. Possibly I am wrong, but, in my opinion, even in the Pentagon safes where everything is, there are no plans for repelling a Cuban naval assault on Florida or a Nicaraguan air attack in Texas.

And so what is Washington afraid of? Why does it speak of a "second Cuba" with such bitterness? Perhaps the class instinct is at work. It fears the fact that more and more states are refusing to heed advice from Washington. It is afraid lest the thirst for independence, rejection of the U.S. way of life, and the desire to create a society where there are no starving, illiterate, unemployed, and outcasts will weaken U.S. positions in Latin America.

Those who now lead the United States do not believe in the laws of history. They believe in force, in their own, U.S. force -- the force of arms and the force of money. And they provide money, they provide arms.

Speaking recently in a "contras" camp located on Honduran territory, one of the counterrevolutionary leaders, Adolfo Calero, said: "We have overcome a number of difficulties facing us in the equipment sphere and now, thanks to the great friend of democracy, Ronald Reagan, our fighters have the means necessary for waging war." They have always been generous, these "great friends of democracy" from Washington. They assisted Chang Kay Si and (Si Syn Man), they kept Franco and Salazar afloat, and they armed the Shah of Iran and the "black colonels" in Greece. Now they secretly patronize Pinochet and Stroessner and cooperate -- "constructively," of course -- with racists in the Republic of South Africa. In the name of "democracy" and only in the name of "democracy".

And, of course, in the name of "democracy" they train and equip the "contras" and through their hands wage a war of attrition -- in order to prevent the new Nicaragua from standing on its own feet and the Sandinists from improving the life of the people. The counterrevolutionaries' prime targets are workers carrying out agrarian reform, teachers trying to eliminate illiteracy, doctors, members of cooperatives, and also various economic and social objectives. It is a war against progress, against development, a war aimed at ensuring that everyone everywhere lives as Washington would like.

There are different opinions in the world as to the probability of direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. In the White House, assurances of the "absence of intentions" alternate with a significant silence. They doubtless understand that Nicaragua is not Grenada, that there would be much bloodshed, including U.S. blood, -- and a great deal of political unpleasantness. However, analysis, calculation, and logic may give in to adventurism. Consequently, Managua is taking the possibility of military adventurism into account, all the more so in view of the fact that the United States is increasing its military activities in Honduras. Airfields, warehouses, and training camps have been formed and roads built leading to the border. According to data provided by the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry, 72,000 U.S. soldiers have undergone training in the course of maneuvers on Honduran territory. Together with the Honduran Army, they have worked through all the stages of conducting offensive operations with the use of tanks, heavy artillery, aircraft, and battleships.

Nicaragua -- both the army and the people -- is preparing for defense. They are being helped by friends. And again hysterics in Washington. But what is actually the reason for these hysterics? "The administration claimed," Wayne Smith, formerly of the State Department, writes in THE NEW YORK TIMES, "that lending support to the 'contras' would lead to some kind of settlement of the conflict in Nicaragua. But as the 'contras' continue to even step up their war against the Sandinists with our assistance, surely it is logical for Managua to ask the Russians and Cubans for additional assistance to counterbalance the ever increasing pressure?" In my opinion, it is logical.

The Nicaraguans are grateful for assistance. But they stress in every way possible that breaking the counterrevolution is their task, and their task only. I will cite the newspaper BARRICADA: Ultimately, "we must understand that Nicaraguan interests, which are threatened by the United States, can be consistently defended only by Nicaraguans themselves. We do not ask that someone do it for us. It is also true that peace and stability in the region can only be defended by Nicaragua, because in reality we are the only country in Central America to maintain genuine political independence." Paradoxical it may be, but Nicaragua is defending against the arbitrary rule of the United States even those who at present, together with the United States, are trying to smother the Nicaraguan revolution.

Evaluating the results of last year, Managua is guardedly optimistic. They have begun, they explained to me, to inflict strategic defeats on the counterrevolution. Several major formations have been beaten and have retired beyond the border. But the situation remains tense and the struggle will be a long one.

The country is living struggle and resistance and is striving to win. The country is living the present and forming its own future. The constitution of the new Nicaragua is being drawn up. It will be based on the principles of political pluralism, a mixed economy, and nonalignment. It is intended to prepare this most important political document by the summer and submit it for discussion by the people.

...At the television studio in Managua I was asked: With what words can you describe your impressions from your meetings and talks with Nicaraguans and from what they have told you?

I replied: Two words are suitable here -- realism and confidence.

Realism, because there are no illusions. Because the difficulties, problems, and contradictions which the country encounters are analyzed seriously in the process of laying and forging a path leading to national independence and social justice.

And confidence. Confidence in the fact that the revolution will defend itself and that the "contras," backed by the United States, will be utterly defeated. Confidence in the fact that the domestic tasks set by the course of the revolution will be successfully resolved.

"Nicaragua sobrevivira" -- "Nicaragua will survive!" These are the words of people who believe in the revolution, believe that Nicaragua will never return to the past. I also believe this.